



Wilson statement heartens EEC supporters

Wilson told the Commons yesterday that he considered himself bound by Labour's election manifesto on the terms of continued membership of the European Community, but not by party conference resolutions. Pro-EEC MPs found his summit report encouraging.

Tory praise embarrasses Prime Minister

MP for Haringey, Tottenham, and a leading opponent of British membership of the Community, demanded to know whether the Prime Minister had any regrets about his statement that he would advise the British people to accept the conclusion of the negotiations in advance of any decision by the Labour Party conference.

Mr Heath, too, as Leader of the Opposition, gave Mr Wilson's statement such a glowing welcome that the Labour leader seemed, for the moment, totally unshaken. Recovering quickly, however, he gave warning of the hurdles ahead.

Missing MP 'was spy' says Czech defector

The missing Labour MP, was one of three members of Parliament in the 1960s who were named as spies by Mr Josef Frolik, a defectoring Czechoslovak intelligence officer.

25-nation cartel says it will stop Britain's sugar if price talks fail

No sugar will be sent to Britain from 25 cane-producing countries until a high enough price is agreed, producer representatives said in London yesterday. They want £300 a ton; Britain has offered £200, compared with £140 being paid under the almost defunct Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.



'Times' man tells of death threat

At about 10 pm on December 4, I was walking in central Buenos Aires towards the offices of the English-language paper, the Buenos Aires Herald, to visit some friends.

School meals up 3p 15p from April

Poor families will be particularly badly hit. We know that many of them do not apply for free school meals because of the stigma attached to those children in many schools who do not get their meals free.

France and America agree on oil and gold

France and the United States today announced striking new agreements for a common approach to the complex of world economic problems. In a joint communiqué issued at the end of the meeting between President Giscard d'Estaing and President Ford on Wednesday, the two countries declared that "consistent economic policies" were imperative on both sides of the Atlantic to avert unemployment while fighting inflation.

Labour MPs criticize Co-op deal

The Co-operative Insurance Society's decision to retain Mr Harry Hyams as chairman and managing director of the Oldham Estate property group came in for criticism yesterday as Labour and Co-operative MPs sought assurances that future policies will conform to Co-operative principles.

Fish Rail pensions cash into Old Masters

British Rail Pension Fund has been rescued by the kee. British Rail told me yesterday that its pension fund investing in works of art is regular basis "and said it was advising art advisers and private unwilling to discuss it so far, but it is that they spent £195,000 on the rescue of the Old Masters collection.

Sharp decline in industrial output

Fresh evidence published yesterday by the Government that output in many of Britain's key industries is either stagnating or falling, will intensify fears that the country is sliding into an economic recession.

Safety moves planned at homes for aged

Nottinghamshire County Council, which runs the Fairfield old people's home where fire killed 18 residents on Sunday, is to accelerate expenditure of £36,000 on improving fire precautions at its homes.

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Rhodesia plan for black rule after five years

Black Rhodesians, under a plan formulated by Mr Vorster and accepted at the Lusaka talks, are promised majority rule after five years.

The Pope condemns Church ferment

The Pope yesterday marked the coming of Holy Year with an apostolic exhortation to unity within the Roman Catholic Church. He condemned as dangerous the "ferments of infidelity to the Holy Spirit" inside the Church.

Italian general arrested

General Ugo Ricci, a member of the Italian Army general staff, has been arrested on charges of conspiracy. He is the serving general to face a court-martial connected with alleged subversion.

Cuts worry Dr Luns

Dr Luns, secretary-general of Nato, said in London yesterday that he could not conceal his disquiet at the political and psychological effect of Britain's proposed defence cuts.

China to 'settle down'

Chairman Mao Tse-tung has told the Chinese that after the Cultural Revolution it is now "time to settle down".

Foreign doctors

Britain is relying more than ever on overseas-born doctors, the Chief Medical Officer's annual report says. More will be needed every year to 1983 if the health service is to grow.

Snow reports begin

The first of The Times series of snow reports appears today. This service, covering in all about 120 resorts in the Alps and Norway, will be published daily throughout the winter.

Taking empty homes

Requisition powers to enable local authorities to take over empty properties were called for yesterday in a Shelter report which denounces the growing practice of sending homeless families to cheap bed-and-breakfast hotels.

We take this opportunity to wish our many friends the compliments of the season and best wishes for 1975

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Home where 18 died not on county list for priority improvements

From Arthur Osman Nottingham

Nottingham County Council, which is prepared to finance an independent inquiry into the fire that killed 18 people at an old people's home at Edwalton on Sunday, is to speed the expenditure, agreed only 11 days ago, of £36,000 to improve fire precautions in its homes.

That was stated yesterday by Mr Richard Wilson, leader of the council, whose social services committee discussed the question in November and took its request for approval before the finance committee on December 5.

In a report on that occasion it was stated that the chief fire officer's requirements for fire precaution equipment and services were incorporated in new buildings at sketch plan stage. At the hand-over the chief fire officer certifies that the stipulated requirements have been met but no further check is carried out once the building is occupied. Sixty-four buildings of all types and ages have recently been rechecked by the chief fire officer, and this has identified deficiencies in all but 28, ranging from minor defects like door closers to the need for additional fire escapes or self-closing fire doors.

In a section of the report relating specifically to homes for the elderly and the question of fire and smoke barriers, it was stated that recent reports about fires in the United Kingdom had drawn attention to the hazard to life caused by the spread of smoke through co-located parts of the building structure such as roof voids.

That could cause asphyxiation of the occupants in the associated rooms. The report continued:

This is of particular significance in homes for the elderly, where certain residents may be prescribed sleeping tablets or other drugs by their GPs and may sleep very heavily. Recent spot checks on a number of homes for the elderly indicate that additional barriers and remedial work may be required to arrest the possible spread of smoke and fire through structural voids.

The report said it might be possible to combine inspection and the required remedial work at the time when redecoration was carried out to cause minimum disruption to residents. It was agreed to spend the £36,000 on improvements over the next three years.

Mr Henry Swain, the county architect, was authorized to investigate the fire and smoke barrier provision in concealed parts of the building structure of homes for the elderly and to rectify any deficiencies.

A third decision was taken to install automatic fire alarms in homes of more than one storey.

The Fairfield home at Edwalton was a single-storey building, not a two-storey structure requiring priority improvement work. Mr Albert Thornhill, the county's chief



Mrs Jill Herbert, night attendant at the Fairfield home.

The council would also be meeting the cost of replacing survivors' personal belongings.

Mr Edward Culham, the director of social services, is to examine staffing levels in the county's homes, particularly at night. Home Office scientists and a team from the Fire Research Establishment at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, searched among the debris yesterday for clues.

It is likely to be some days before any conclusive judgment can be given. Of the 18 who died, 16 were women and two were men. Fire alert: Seventy elderly people left the Endcliffe Hotel at Cliftonville, Kent, yesterday morning when the fire alarm sounded (the Press Association reports). Firemen found that heat from the basement boiler room had set off the alarm.

Building system criticized

By Our Planning Reporter The Clasp (Consortium of Local Authorities Programme) industrialized building system used in the construction of the Fairfield home was first developed in Nottinghamshire about 13 years ago by Sir Donald Gibson, the county's former chief architect. Its light weight and flexibility were considered to make it particularly suitable for areas liable to mining subsidence.

The system has been periodically criticized, particularly in trade journals, which have drawn attention to the inherent fire risks.

An article in *Building Design* last month, commenting on a fire at Ulsworth comprehensive school in Washington New Town,

Tories face new clash on ballot for leadership

By George Clark Political Correspondent

When the Conservative Party gets the revised plan for the election of its leader today a new dispute is likely to break out over the proposed rule which would virtually exclude the opportunity for Mr Heath to be re-elected in the first ballot.

Details of the revised rules, which have "leaked" to Conservative backbenchers, indicate that in the first ballot Mr Heath would have to obtain 65 per cent of the vote to win. To win under existing rules the leading candidate must receive both an overall majority and 15 per cent more of the votes cast than any other candidate.

Under the proposed new rule, Mr Heath would need 179 votes. When the party voted in 1965 he got 152 votes against Mr Reginald Maudling's 133, and Mr Enoch Powell's 15.

Mr Heath did not then obtain the necessary margin, but a second ballot was not held because Mr Powell had been eliminated. Mr Heath had been asked not to carry his challenge further, and no other candidate came forward.

The opportunity for new candidates to intervene after a decision to re-elect the first vote is apparently to be preserved in the revised plan. Thus possible contenders like Mr du Cann, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, and Mr Whitelaw, chairman of the Conservative Party, could wait on the sidelines to see how the contest might develop between Mr Heath and Mr Thatcher.

Mr Heath's supporters argue that all contenders should stand in the first ballot and that the leader should be chosen by a process of elimination. One suggestion being canvassed is to insert into the ballot, with all contenders standing, those who receive less than a fifth of the possible total vote should be eliminated.

No firm proposals will be made until the full revised plan, drawn up by Sir Alec Douglas-Home and his committee, has been studied. It will be presented to Mr Heath, as leader of the party, and he will wait for the views of the 1922 Committee, the Conservative peers, and the National Union, before taking any further action.

The 1922 Committee will probably not meet to consider the new rules until after the Christmas recess.

Trust post for Prince

The Prince of Wales has been appointed chairman of the Administrative Council of King George's Jubilee Trusts (for youth) in succession to the late Duke of Gloucester, it was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday.

Raiders take chemicals used in bombs from Ulster factory

From Stewart Tendler Belfast

Security forces yesterday searched for 10 men who stole from a factory 12cwt of chemicals that are used to produce home-made bombs. The plastic sacks of potassium nitrate were taken from a glassworks at Dunganoo, Co Tyrone.

On Sunday evening two armed men called at the home of one of the staff of the Tyrone Crystal Company and waited with his wife until he came home. One of the raiders stayed with the woman and the other took the employee to the factory, where eight men were waiting with the furnaceman and security guard.

With a gun at his head the employee was made to disconnect an electronic alarm connecting the chemical store with the RUC station.

Three factory employees were tied up and the chemicals were loaded into a van and a Maxi saloon car, which was later found abandoned.

The theft may mark a new series of bombings or indicate that the supply of explosives has been reduced by the security forces.

In another chemical theft on Sunday evening 18 tons of barless acetic acid were taken with a lorry and trailer from a lay-by at Hillsborough, Co Down. It is believed that the thieves thought

they were taking sugar. The load is valued at more than £19,000.

The nitrate haul was discussed at the weekly security meeting at Stormont Castle yesterday. Afterwards, figures were released showing that in the past week security forces have charged 24 people with terrorist offences. Fifty-three "travelling gunmen" have been caught since the middle of September, when a new period of violence began with the killing of a judge and resident magistrate.

The Department of Environment announced in Belfast yesterday that over the past six years more people have died on the roads than from the stomach.

Conspiracy case retrial

A new trial was ordered yesterday for two Irishmen accused of being concerned in an IRA bomb plot after the jury at the Central Criminal Court had failed to agree on a verdict.

Michael MacLochlainn, aged 17, of the Bogside, Londonderry, and Joseph Coughlan, aged 27, of Tullamore, Offaly, had pleaded not guilty to conspiring together and with others in July to cause explosions and endanger life and property.

Mr Justice Nield said when the jury had returned after several hours with no verdict that the two men would be tried again at a later sitting of the court.

Drive against pollution cut by rate squeeze

By Pearce Wright Science Correspondent

Some of the measures to improve the Control of Pollution Act, passed earlier this year, will have to be deferred because of government finance cuts.

Rowlands, Parliament Under-Secretary of State for Wales, speaking yesterday Cardiff at a conference on use of domestic waste, and local authorities, said it would be able to consider urgent needs first. New projects for recycling must be limited to those producing revenue or saving resources.

His comments came before the formation of a Waste Management Advisory Council was announced in Commons written answer to the Department of the Environment. It gave the names of the eventual 18 members who will hold their first meeting tomorrow.

Their terms of reference to review the development waste management policies Britain for reclaiming water and recycling.

Mr Graef Searle, director of Friends of the Earth, has already indicated that the committee must meet a promise from Government that environmental interests will be well represented when waste recycling is under review.

Members of the council include Lord Darling of Bournemouth, Mrs Lady WI Royal Commission of Environmental Pollution, Mr N. W. assistant general secretary TUC, and Sir Daniel Pe National Freight Corporation.

Lead seen as possible violence cause

Violent teenage behaviour including football hooliganism might be attributed partly to lead pollution, Professor Bryce-Smith, Professor Organic Chemistry at Reading University, said yesterday.

In a joint article in *Ecologist* magazine with Professor Tony Waldron, of Department of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, Professor Bryce-Smith says children with a condition known as hyperactivity have a tendency to violent destructive behaviour. The question is whether activity may be linked to lead levels.

Professor Bryce-Smith yesterday said that lead in blood had reached those levels in some cities, Glasgow, SA and Inner London examples.

Referring to an as yet unpublished work by Dr O David, of the Child Behaviour Research Unit, New York said that his research confirmed the question as to whether people should be put to prison or treated for poisoning in cases of violent behaviour.

The two professors, who worked for the lead in base their arguments on controversial premise that the question is long but there are clinical signs of poisoning.

Labour moderates to decide form of Commons group

By Geoffrey Smith

The decisive meeting in the formation of a moderate group of Labour MPs to balance the influence of the Tribune group within the parliamentary party will be held today.

At least a hundred MPs have been invited to discuss whether the group should register with the chief whip and have a formal list of members in the same way as the Tribune group. That is the recommendation of the steering committee which was set up after the meeting of some fifty moderates in the dying days of the old Parliament.

Mr Stonehouse named as spy by defector

Continued from page 1 He claimed that they were part of an elaborate spy ring, financed by the Czechoslovaks and also involving civil servants and a double agent living in London.

Part of the information provided by the MPs was alleged to have involved policy decisions at the upper level of the Labour Party. Mr Stonehouse's usefulness would seem to have derived in the early years from his post as Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Aviation from October, 1964, to April, 1965.

In the weeks since Mr Stonehouse's disappearance senior members of the Government have shown reluctance to talk about his background. But in Whitehall circles the Frolik allegations have been common knowledge for several years.

Pressure is being put on Mr Wilson, as head of Britain's security services, to make a full statement about security checks which are alleged to have been made on Mr Stonehouse since the Frolik allegations were made.

The Foreign Office refuses to discuss any details of the intense intelligence operations, including close cooperation with the American services, which have ensued since Mr Stonehouse's disappearance. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, British Ambassador in Washington, has been keeping a close watch on the situation through the British consul in Miami, Mr D. W. M. Pierotti.

In the late 1960s Mr Stonehouse was looked on as one of Labour's rising stars and his apparent fall from ministerial grace, which surprised many of his colleagues, followed Mr Frolik's allegations to the CIA.

After serving under Mr Wilson as Minister of Aviation, Minister of State, Technology, Postmaster-General and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Stonehouse returned to the back benches when Labour lost the 1970 election.

Mrs Stonehouse insists, however, that she was offered the post of shadow Minister of Aviation but rejected it because

Disruption in national newspapers continues

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff

Disruption of national newspaper production continued last night as the printing plant of the National Graphical Association and the Newspaper Publishers Association went on strike.

The action follows no regular pattern and no warning is given. Chairmen of office branches open sealed instructions each evening telling them to act.

All Fleet Street newspapers were prevented from including late news in Friday's issues. Only *The Sun* was affected on Saturday. Sunday newspapers were also prevented from making late changes and similar action affected printing of *The Guardian* on Sunday night.

The NPA council met to review the dispute yesterday and is to meet again today.

Health workers accept: The Confederation of Health Service Employees yesterday accepted a 19 per cent pay offer to 40,000 of its members among hospital ancillary workers. The National Union of Public Employees has recommended a further 110,000 staff to accept the offer, making it virtually certain that the deal will be settled within the social contract.

Sanction threat: The Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association, which claims 5,000 members, has moved nearer to endorsing sanctions in hospitals in the dispute with the Department of Health over a new consultants' contract (our Medical Reporter writes).

An executive committee decided last night to recommend to a full council meeting on Saturday that members should be asked to employ sanctions from December 23 unless the department provides written confirmation of draft agreements reached so far in the working party on the new contract.

Forty consultants at hospitals in the disaffiliated counties of Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, decided yesterday to work to contract from 9 am today.

Their action brings to 70 the number of consultants working to rule in England. Thirty are taking action at Crewe.

Botterill ahead in key chess game

From a Chess Correspondent Llangennech, Dyfed

The key game between the leader, G. S. Botterill, and the defending title holder, W. R. Hartston, was adjourned in the third round of the British Chess Championship play-off tournament at Llangennech yesterday.

Botterill, 11, and Hartston, 12, are adjourned: Botterill, 11, and Hartston, 12, are adjourned: Botterill, 11, and Hartston, 12, are adjourned.

Results of round three: Hartston, 12, and Botterill, 11, are adjourned: Hartston, 12, and Botterill, 11, are adjourned.

Both he and the London Capital Group were being used by Mr Keith White, a former director of the group, over verbal deals concerning shares and fees.

Life insurance policies on Mr Stonehouse were arranged by Mr Stonehouse after his car was wrecked by a bomb at Heathrow airport and another bomb was found at his headquarters, near the family home.

Mr Stonehouse declines to disclose the amount of the policies, but a figure of £120,000 has been reported.

Plan provides for three Eire universities

By R. Burke, Minister for Education, disclosed in Dublin yesterday the Government's long-awaited plans for the structure of higher education in the Republic.

University College, Dublin, will be detached from the federal National University of Ireland and constituted an independent university, thus finally disposing of the controversial proposal for a merger with Trinity College, Dublin. A joint board will coordinate the activities of the two universities in Dublin. Certain subjects, mainly professional, will be allocated to one university or the other. A wide measure of autonomy has been reached.

The most controversial point is likely to be the refusal of independent status to the colleges in Cork and Galway, which are to continue as constituent colleges of a truncated National University of Ireland.

A constitutional referendum may be necessary to give effect to the government proposals because of consequential changes in the composition of the Upper House of the Dail, where at present the two universities have three seats each.

Mr Foot rebuffs TUC on job safeguard plan

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The TUC suffered a rare rebuff yesterday when Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, declined to take powers to veto redundancies and subsidize temporarily ailing companies to save workers' jobs.

Union leaders have been asking the minister to write into his forthcoming Employment Protection Bill a provision that employers wishing to reduce their labour force should first obtain the approval of the Department of Employment. If the firms were only in temporary difficulty, money that would otherwise be paid as unemployment benefit to the redundant workers should be added to the payroll, the TUC says, so that the men could stay at work on full pay.

Mr Foot told TUC leaders that it would be unprecedented under English law for his department to decide when and to what extent companies could reduce their manpower.

He pointed out that in the Employment Protection Bill the Government was suggesting that employers should be obliged to notify the department when they proposed to declare redundancies, so that the manpower services could take immediate steps to redeploy or retrain the workers. There would be sanctions available against employers for failing to notify the department.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said after the talks that Mr Foot was "not wholly convinced" by the TUC's case. "If there should be a deterioration in the employment situation in the next year, and we are not assuming there is going to be one because of the things the Chancellor is doing, the relevance of the things we are asking for could become even greater."

Mr Foot left over for further discussion the TUC's argument for extending machinery to allow the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to obligate employers to pay the "going rate", so that "pockets of low pay" could be cleared up. The CBI argues that the present proposal, which could force, say, an engineering company to pay the average rate for the industry in the area, is inflationary.

Gift from poor box to failed financier

Edward Ash, a City financier whose firm crashed because of the economic situation, stole cakes and cheese worth £2,49 at Harrods, the Kensington department store, Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court was told yesterday.

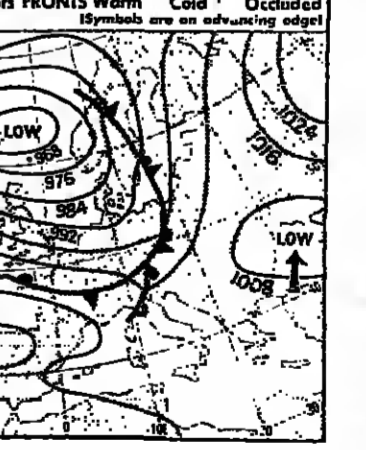
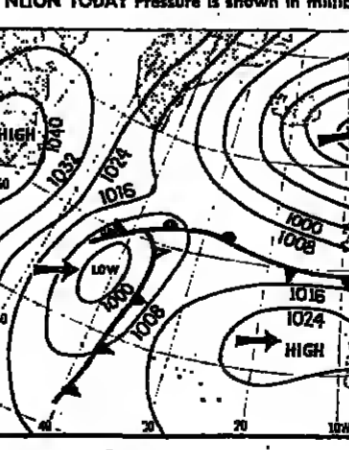
Mr St. John Harmsworth, the magistrate, ordered that he should receive money from the poor box to tide him over until he receives his first unemployment pay later this week.

Mr Ash, aged 40, who lives in a £160-a-month flat at Albany Mansions, Albert Bridge Road, Battersea, admitted the theft and was granted a conditional discharge. Mr James Hillen, for the prosecution, said it was a case of genuine hardship. When his investment firm failed he

declared himself redundant but was not paid. Now, with large overdraft, he had to go for unemployment pay.

Mr Harmsworth said the was stolen when Mr Ash was hungry and in severe financial stress. He told a probation officer to see Mr Ash, as he was a pound or two tide him over."

Weather forecast and recordings



Today Sun rises: 8.1 am Sun sets: 3.32 pm Moon rises: 10.7 am Moon sets: 8.3 pm

First quarter: December 21. Lightning up: 4.22 pm to 7.32 am. High water: London Bridge, 3.42 am, 6.9m (22.8ft); 4.9 pm, 7.0m (22.8ft). Avonmouth, 9.12 am, 12.4m (40.6ft); 9.28 pm, 11.9m (39.1ft). Dover: 12.43 am, 6.6m (21.8ft); 1.3 pm, 8.4m (27.6ft). Hull, 8.16 am, 6.6m (21.8ft); 8.9 pm, 6.9m (22.7ft). Liverpool, 1.3 am, 8.6m (28.3ft); 1.16 pm, 8.4m (27.6ft).

A deep depression will move E to the W of Scotland and a trough of low pressure may advance from the W across S Britain later in the day.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, Midlands, E Anglia, W Anglia, W. Perhaps strong at times; max temp 7°C (45°F). SW. Central S and SE England, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals, but rain later; wind W moderate or fresh, becoming light; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Showers and sunny intervals in most areas; rather cold in N, temp over normal in S. Sea passages: S North Sea; Wind W, gale or severe gale; sea very rough.

Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W, strong or gale, becoming fresh; sea very rough becoming moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, gale or severe gale; sea very rough.

Yesterday London: Temp: max, 6 am pm, 12°C (54°F); min, 6 pm am, 6°C (43°F). Humidity, 68 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 0.07in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm. Rain mean sea level to be 1.000 millibars, steady.

30-day forecast The Meteorological Office today issued the following for the next 30 days: Cold weather is expected to spread to all districts in the period and to dominate in most areas until the end of the year. Milder weather is likely to return gradually districts before the middle of January. Mean temp and rainfall are expected to be average 10 centigrade and 4.8 in near average in N and W, and 12°C (54°F) and 4.8 in in S and E. Wales and districts: England and Wales: snowfall is expected to with about the usual frequency for this time of the year but is likely to be less fog than

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HOME NEWS

Requisitioning urged to end system of bed-and-breakfast hotels for homeless

Staff Reporter report yesterday by Shelter, housing charity, denounced increasing practice of sending homeless families to live in bed-and-breakfast hotels called for requisitioning of properties.

Authorities 'reached out to seize smuggler'

A man who had been extradited from Kenya on a conspiracy charge was sentenced at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday to four years' imprisonment in what was said by Mr John Rogers, for the prosecution, to be the first case of its kind under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.



A new Dr Who, Mr Tom Baker, formerly of the National Theatre. The BBC science-fiction series reappears on December 28.

Navy officer was drunk at embassy reception

Lieutenant Adrian McCurry, aged 26, of the minehunter Maxton, was sentenced at a court martial at HMS Cochrane, Rosyth, yesterday, to be dismissed his ship and to lose six months' seniority.

In brief Jail break-out fails

After a break-out attempt at Hull top-security prison had been discovered during the previous night an investigation began yesterday into how prisoners obtained cutting tools, which were found in a recently completed cell-block.

Husband freed

Walter Davies, aged 60, retired garage manager, of Fulmouth Avenue, Higham's Park, London, who was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on September 16 to two years' jail for the "mercy killing" of his wife, was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Rebel teacher elected

Mr Jack Malloch, an Aberdeen mathematics teacher who fought a legal battle for several years over his refusal to register with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, has been elected to the new council by his fellow-teachers, which will take office in February.

£1m for children

Despite the economic crisis, which has cut the size of donations, the Variety Club of Great Britain has been able to raise £1m this year for underprivileged children.

Head dismissed from £5,600 job

Mr Raymond Germain, aged 47, £5,600-a-year head of the 1,500-pupil Alun School, Mold, North Wales, for the past two years, was dismissed after a meeting of Clwyd County Council school's subcommittee yesterday.

A statement after the meeting said an inquiry had been held after an adverse report by Mr John Davies, county director of education, into Mr Germain's conduct. A member of the school staff said: "He clashed head on with administrators because of his views on education."

an planned disguises to bank, court told

Our Correspondent report said that William Tongue, aged 40, clothing technician, wore two disguises so that he could change his appearance escaping with £10,000 from a bank, Huddersfield, yesterday.

Mr Michael Foot fined £40 for careless driving

From Our Correspondent report said that Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, was to be fined £40 for careless driving on the A-41 Bicester road at Kingswood, Buckinghamshire, on October 11. He did not appear in court.

Janie Jones's sentence of 7 years 'not day too long'

The jail sentence of seven years on Janie Jones, aged 37, the singer who ran a prostitution service from her home in Kensington was not a moment too long, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday. Miss Jones, who was not in court, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for the conspiracy to import 80.8 kg of cannabis into the United Kingdom.

American jailed after admitting robbery attempt

From Our Correspondent report said that a former American marine who served in Vietnam was jailed for three years and recommended for deportation after pleading guilty at York Crown Court yesterday to attempting to rob the Halifax Building Society's branch office at Snaith, near Selby.

Eight accused of public house murder

Eight men were remanded in custody for seven days at Guildford Magistrates' Court yesterday in connection with the murder of Caroline Mulvihill at Guildford.

Children flock to borrow from toy library

A toy library, serving the Whitehawk suburb of Brighton, has just celebrated its first anniversary. It has about 1,200 members aged between 18 months and 19 years, and is a three-year pilot project financed by the Rowntree Trust and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sea to stop 'disguised' water content in food

Our Correspondent report said that a report to the country's food protection committee has urged that the Association of Food Manufacturers should press current departments for immediate inquiry about artificially increasing weight of foodstuffs.

Court dash fails

Three accused were recaptured yesterday after making a dash for freedom from Northampton Magistrates' Court, where they had been remanded in custody for a week on theft charges.

Women's 3-year wait

Women undergraduates are to be admitted to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, "not earlier than October, 1977".

Minister urged to call press freedom talks

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, has been asked to invite the National Union of Journalists and the Institute of Journalists to an urgent conference on press freedom and a closed shop.

Children flock to borrow from toy library

The library has about 1,200 members aged between 18 months and 19 years, and is a three-year pilot project financed by the Rowntree Trust and the Department of Health and Social Security.

CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE SPENT AT HOME



IF YOU'VE GOT ONE.

This Christmas, thousands of families won't spend Christmas at home. They don't have homes. They will spend the holiday in temporary accommodation. Some at least will be together in hostels. Others will be split up. Yet more will be in abandoned houses, caravans, even beach huts.

Form for SHELTER National Campaign for the Homeless, including fields for name, address, and a request for a receipt.

HOME NEWS

Dependence on foreign doctors increasing, health chief reports

By John Roper Medical Reporter
More doctors from abroad will have to be employed in the health services if the increased annual demand remains at the 3 per cent level of the past few years, Dr Henry Yellowlees, the chief Medical Officer, says in his annual report today.

fyiog from British medical schools dropped from 2,343 in 1972 to 2,289 in 1973. Seventy-eight fewer new doctors were born in the United Kingdom, while 24 more (104) were born elsewhere.

Patient was not told of drug-drink danger

A doctor's failure to tell a patient about the dangers of drinking while taking drugs turned a respectable family man into a sex attacker a judge at the Central Criminal Court said yesterday.

Ramon Piestado, aged 33, a waiter, of Achilles Road, West Hampstead, who drank seven gins while on phenobarbitone tablets, pleaded guilty to attempting to choke two girls into unconsciousness so that he could rape them.



Children in St Bartholomew's Hospital greeting Father Christmas and his cartful of presents

Dr Luns disquieted by British defence cuts

By George Clark Political Correspondent
Dr Joseph Luns, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said yesterday that he was deeply disquieted by the political and psychological effects of the proposed reductions in Britain's defence programme.

that the weakening of defence in one region by one country had implications for the alliance as a whole. "We are trying to maintain a worldwide balance of power between the East and West, not merely a local balance of forces across what is called the iron curtain," he said.

Addressing journalists and MPs at a luncheon of the Parliamentary Press Gallery two hours before the opening of the defence debate in the Commons, Dr Luns said that his greatest concern was about the southern flank of Nato, including the Mediterranean, where Soviet activities were on the increase and the military position of the alliance was less than perfect.

Changes in the balance of forces outside the Nato area might hold even greater dangers for the peace of the world and the security of Nato. That situation had not been improved by the decision of the United Kingdom Government to withdraw forces progressively from those other areas.

But of course he was relieved that the United Kingdom had decided to maintain unchanged the strength of the land and air forces deployed in the vital central sector on the Continent. It was the standing forces, deployed in the forward areas, that provided the first line of Nato defence and contributed much to the deterrent.

Referring to his disquiet about cuts in other areas, Dr Luns said

WEST EUROPE

M Chaban-Delmas to challenge M Chirac over party leadership

From Richard Wigg Paris, Dec 16
M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister and Gaullist presidential candidate last May, today made clear that he would seek to challenge M Jacques Chirac over his seizure of the party's leadership at the weekend of the post of party secretary general while remaining Prime Minister.

a Gaullist in the presidency. He has pushed a reform of the party's internal organs, designed both to give an increased democratic influence to the lower ranks and to cultivate a potential electorate outside the Gaullists.

Communist dilemma over motion of censure

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 16
The motion of censure by the left which the National Assembly will begin debating tomorrow will not reap more than some 180 votes out of the 400 members of the Assembly.

Technician denies making device to cause damage

From Our Correspondent Oxford
A medical physics technician said yesterday that he had had no idea that timing mechanisms he had made for someone else were to be used to cause damage by explosions in Oxford.

devices and the timing mechanisms only in so far as they worked successfully. He had never heard Mr Skelding declare any strong political interest.

Court reduces sentence on practical joker

Ronald Travers, jailed for making a booby-trap bomb, won a reduction in his prison sentence yesterday from seven years to four years.

Foreign Office minister to visit Philippines
Lord Coroway-Roberts, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office responsible for Far Eastern affairs, is to visit Hongkong and the Philippines next month.

Man describes hiding wife's body in freezer

A man told a Central Criminal Court hearing yesterday that after a struggle with his wife during which he killed her he put her body in the deep freezer so that their children would not find it.

George Medal for fireman who risked life

By a Staff Reporter
A fireman who risked his life to save three people from a fire in a Devon guest-house has been awarded the George Medal, it is announced today.

Poultry men ask for end of state aid to beef

By Our Agricultural Correspondent
Poultry industry leaders are to press the Government today to abolish all state aid to beef.

Unemployment spectre at social affairs conference

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Dec 16
Regular EEC consultations between employers and trade unions from the industries badly hit by the economic crisis will make a vital contribution in working out remedial action, Dr Patrick Hillery, the European Commissioner for social affairs, said today.

Chancellor leads discussion on city's future

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Dec 16
A high-level conference held in West Berlin today to discuss long-term plans for the city's economic and social development.

Dogs help to end bakery sit-in

Security men with five Alsatian dogs on leads yesterday ejected 17 men who had barricaded themselves in with flour bags at the bakery of Thomas Scott and Sons at Netherton, Merseyside.

1 per cent home loans for miners and steelworkers

The cheapest home loans in Britain are on offer to Britain's coalminers and steelworkers. About £2m will be earmarked next year at an interest rate of only 1 per cent by the EEC Commission.

Lord Strathcona to sell Scottish estate

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal has decided to sell his family seat in Scotland, his Scots solicitors announced yesterday. Colonsay Estate, which extends to about 13,000 acres and includes the islands of Colonsay and Oransay off the coast of Argyll, has been in the family for four generations.

Stones hurled at motorist

A motorist hit by a stone discharged from a catapult was said yesterday to be likely to lose the sight of an eye. The man, aged 39, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, stopped to adjust his radio near Stevenage when three stones were hurled at him. Two broke windows of his car and the third hit his eye.

Rival leftist student groups in Tokyo clash

Tokyo, Dec 16.—Left-wing student extremists cut telephone lines to a district of Tokyo, then attacked a rival Marxist group in a street battle with axes and

Dr Soares reelected party chief

From Jose Sbercliff Lisbon, Dec 16
Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, has been reelected secretary-general of the Socialist Party on the last day of the party congress in Lisbon. Dr Antonio Macedo was also reelected president.

Correction

Dr Otto von Habsburg lives in Bavaria, not Switzerland as stated on December 10. He was admitted to the Austrian citizenship in 1956, on giving up his German claim to the throne, so it is wrong to describe him as a "German prince".

Dr Soares reelected party chief

The discussions, as well as the election of officers, showed that although it presents a united front to the world, it is a party of many currents.

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OVERSEAS

Vorster plan agreed at Lusaka will probably give Rhodesia majority rule after five years

From Michael Koipe Salisbury, Dec 16. The basis of the proposed Rhodesian constitutional conference agreed upon in Lusaka that majority rule will be reached after the life of one post-conference Parliament. Meanwhile, there would be an interim Parliament elected to give the vote to all Rhodesians with seven years' primary education and one year's secondary education. This is the substance of the proposal put forward by Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, agreed on by President Kaunda of Zambia, and eventually and reluctantly accepted by Rhodesia's black and white leaders, according to news sources here. It indicates a startling display of realism on the part of the South African Prime Minister recognizing the inevitability of majority rule in Rhodesia in what is all probability to be a five-year period. Mr Vorster persuaded Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, that this was the best realistic negotiating position from which he could expect to start, while President Kaunda exerted similar influence over the leaders of the divided African nationalist movements. However, the influence of the South African and Rhodesian leaders is inevitably being lessened now that the two sides are wrestling for the details of the situation.

At present there are some 7,000 Africans eligible to vote, many of whom will be among the 56,000 who reached first-year secondary school, so it might be that Africans would not reach parity with Europeans in the first post-conference election. There are clearly grounds for considerable manoeuvring at the proposed constitutional conference. The major issue will be electoral representation. At present the Rhodesian Parliament has 66 seats, 50 of which are elected by white voters and 16 by Africans. The Africans are insistent on a common vote. The expectations of my sources are that the Parliament might be enlarged up to 100 seats. The conference will have to resolve the delicate issue of delimitation. Mr Smith's Government will be determined that whites should retain control for as long as possible of a majority of seats, while the Africans will be equally determined that they should win immediate majority control. It is safe to assume that the vast majority of Africans with the necessary educational qualifications to vote for the interim Parliament are living in Salisbury and, to a lesser extent,

in the other urban areas. The rural constituencies, which are likely to incorporate large tracts of the African tribal trust lands where few Africans will be eligible to vote, will remain dominated by whites. The ruling Rhodesian Front party already overwhelms its more liberal opponents by its commanding strength in rural areas. Thus the delimitation of new electoral constituencies will be a vital matter at the conference, which is expected to be staged early in the new year. There will also be an intensive search by both sides for safeguards. The Africans need some reassurance that the rapid process to majority rule will not be sabotaged, while whites will require rights, including some form of veto, to ensure that there will be no retroactive changes in the agreed constitution. An interim Parliament, with an electorate restricted to those with seven years' primary and one year's secondary education, would enable Mr Smith to argue to his supporters that he had "maintained civilized standards", as he has promised. It is perhaps significant that in an interview broadcast here yesterday he stated he believed in majority rule on the basis of qualified franchise, but not in the "counting of heads, like the counting of sheep". Africans are interpreting these words as a welcome change of stance by the Prime Minister. In the coming weeks Mr Smith is likely to take further cautious steps to prepare white Rhodesians for the prospect of majority rule. The question of when Rhodesia's independence might be declared legal, should the constitutional conference prove successful, remains confused. The all-important matter will be the lifting of sanctions, and it might be that this could be investigated during the life of the proposed interim Parliament.

Mr Todd still waiting for end to restriction order

Salisbury, Dec 16.—A restriction order on Garfield Todd, former Rhodesian nationalist leader, has not been lifted in the light of Mr Todd's pledge to use all detainees and restrictions, Mrs Grace Todd said. Mrs Todd said her husband asked police to clarify his position in the light of Mr Todd's announcement last Wednesday. "The police told us that they had no instructions from the Government," Mrs Todd said. "We would let us know the minute they heard, so far we have heard nothing." Mr Todd was restricted to farm in the Shabani area 1972, after the Government had been persuading Africans to reject the 1971 pro-Anglo-Rhodesian settlement. His daughter, Judith, is also restricted at the same time, but later was allowed to leave the country. Mr Todd and Mrs Todd returned on a two-week holiday to their African late last month after the authorities had permitted them to leave the country on "humanitarian grounds". Mrs Todd said that she objected to Mr Todd's recent assertion that all detainees and restrictions were security reasons and not political ones.

Meanwhile, there were hints from Government sources that detained African nationalist supporters are already being released to join their leaders, who were freed last week. A Salisbury magistrate today sentenced 12 Africans to prison terms ranging from two to three years each for having failed to report the presence of guerrillas in their areas. All of them pleaded guilty. The magistrate, Mr K. H. Arnold, ordered that the names of the 11 labourers and one kraal head concerned were not to be published and forbade disclosure of any details of the offences which took place between February, 1973, and September, 1974. — Agency France-Press and Reuters. Penny Symon writes: Mr Todd's daughter, Mrs Judith Arnold, who has lived in England since July, 1972, said yesterday: "I telephoned my mother today at about 4.15 pm, and my father was still under house arrest then. "A report that he was having medical treatment in hospital was not true. We first heard last Wednesday, and I telephoned my parents on Friday, but he was still detained. Today I was disappointed again when I rang."

UN Assembly urges sanctions on S Africa

New York, Dec 16.—The United Nations General Assembly today approved a series of resolutions demanding sanctions against South Africa for its apartheid policies. The first resolution asked the Security Council to "take steps to bring about the supply of arms, ammunition, military vehicles, spare parts thereof and any other military equipment whatsoever to South Africa, as well as any military cooperation with it." The second resolution called on South Africa to allow public dissent on apartheid policies and to grant "unconditional amnesty to all persons imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to apartheid." The third resolution authorized the United Nations special committee on apartheid to increase aid to South African liberation movements and to mount international anti-apartheid campaigns. One of the campaigns would be to end collaboration by banks, national and transnational companies with the South African regime and companies registered in South Africa. Another would ask governments to end emigration of their nationals to South Africa, as well as end "all cultural, educational, scientific, sporting and other contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General to 'take steps, as appropriate, to deny all facilities to, and cooperation with, companies and organizations which assist the South African regime or South African companies with such facilities or assistance or other means'." — Reuters.



Jungle ordeal: Herbert Zehoder, aged 11 (left) and his brother Carlos, aged eight, are embraced by their father in La Merced, Peru, at the end of a week's journey through the jungle after an air crash. With seven other children—brothers and cousins—they were flying on December 7 to San Juan for Christmas with their 24-year-old cousin Oscar as pilot. When the aircraft crashed, one six-year-old boy died instantly and another, aged 14, died soon afterwards. Gladys Zehoder, at 15, the oldest of the children, led the party through the jungle; she and Oscar took turns to carry their wounded sister Ketty, aged 10, but she died two hours before they were all rescued by a peasant boatman on the Palcazu river. On the march to the river, using a single machete to hack through the vegetation, they ate biscuits, chocolate and fruit and the boys pulled a maramba to keep wild animals away. After two days' walking, they arrived back at the plane and had to start again, bitten by mosquitoes and resting every hour.

Reformist government in Peru turns tough

From Our Correspondent Lima, Dec 16. Peru's military government for long has had the reputation of being one of the most peaceful in Latin America. There are now signs that it is becoming tough. Four members of the Lima Bar Association have been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for "injuring the reputation of the Government" and for "spreading irreparable prejudices about the national economy." They had published a report which questioned the constitutionality of contracts signed earlier this year with Japanese companies for a \$330m (£143m) loan to finance the North Trans-Andean Oil Pipeline. The contracts were also discussed by the news magazine—the Peruvian Times, an English-language weekly, and two conservative Spanish publications, Oiga and Opinion Libre. All three were promptly closed for their speculation. One lawyer said: "It is inherent to this kind of government to react toughly to this kind of questioning. It no longer matters whether you are on the right or the left. If you criticize the government now you are accused of being a counter-revolutionary." There has never been institutionalized repression in Peru, as there is in Brazil, Uruguay, or Chile since September, 1973, but the Peruvian administration has always been authoritarian. It took power in October, 1968, after ousting the civilian President, Dr Fernando Belaunde Terry, from the Palace. At the time it looked like another typical right-wing Latin American coup. But because of its economic policies and friendship with Russia and Cuba, the regime was soon described as left wing. The civilian right saw its power eroded by extensive agrarian reform, nationalization, and control of ownership in industry. The last straw for this group was the nationalization of the country's main newspapers in July. It was deprived of an outlet to express its opposition, and the move marked a change for the regime. Since then there has been a

'Times' man speaks of terrorism in Argentina

Continued from page 1 anti-subversion law, which carries with it jail sentences for journalists of up to five years for naming the two extremist guerrilla groups, the Marxist ERP and the AAA, who are terrorizing the lives of ordinary people. But foreign journalists are supposedly free to report on the political situation. However, they, too, are living under the open intimidation of the AAA. It is reported to be a para-police organization and has been responsible for the murder of many socialist figures and a small exodus of foreign journalists. The correspondent of Le Monde was threatened directly by the AAA six weeks ago and since left Argentina. Another British freelance journalist also fled after receiving a message through friends of a possible death threat. Two Bolivian journalists working for foreign newspapers in Argentina were both threatened and they, too, have left the country. The Argentine Government was not responsible for what happened to me or for the kidnapping of another Argentine carried out by the AAA. It is up to them, however, to control the movement of these somewhat ignorant and ideologically naive paid assassins. There will be no press freedom in Argentina and no foreign journalists will be able to report objectively so long as this type of intimidation goes on under the Government's nose. The many posters spread across Buenos Aires by the right-wing Peronist magazine Caudillo stating that another year of castigating Marxists, liberals, socialists and infiltrators is over does little to bring credit to a government for which most journalists have sympathy in the hope that it represented, and would continue to represent, a democracy.

Mr Rabin says Cairo upsetting peace hopes

From Moshe Brillman Jerusalem, Dec 16. Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said tonight that Egypt's call this weekend for limits on Jewish immigration to Israel could disturb the prospects of a Middle East peace. Addressing some 300 poets, essayists and novelists at the thirty-ninth PEN congress in Jerusalem, he berated the peace terms put forward by Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. "Nothing can possibly dissuade Israel from its historic human mission of national ingathering," he declared. "For this Israel was reborn. It is the lifeblood of the Jewish people. It is what Israel is all about." Mr Rabin said that the opening of the convention in Jerusalem at this time was particularly significant. He recalled the decision in Paris by the conference of Unesco to withdraw assistance from Israel and her bar from regional bodies. He told the writers: "An Orwellian thought comes to mind. He spoke of a non-person. We are told we are a non-nation. This is the grotesque of what happened at Unesco when Israel's representation was barred and silenced." Mr Saul Bellow, the American novelist, was among the participants. At a press conference in Jerusalem earlier today he attacked the Unesco decision, which he described as "extremely stupid, ignorant, partisan, unworthy of a world cultural organization which is supposed to transcend national differences." He said: "I think they were a lot of swine." Eric Marsden writes from Jerusalem: Israel is courting the risk of formal expulsion by Unesco as a result of its decision to suspend its membership payments of about £1,000 every two years. When the move was announced yesterday the Foreign Minister, Mr Yigal Alon, emphasized that Israel was not leaving Unesco but was withholding its dues as a reaction to the Unesco general conference's "anti-Israel and pro-PLO" resolutions in November. According to official sources here, however, the procedural rules of Unesco provide for the expulsion of a country which announces that it does not intend to pay its membership dues, though no action is usually

Iran accused by Iraq of shooting down aircraft

From Paul Martin Beirut, Dec 16. The danger of the Kurdish war developing into a wider conflict was emphasized today when Iraq accused Iran of shooting down two of its fighter-bombers. The Iraqis said the incident, which occurred astride the border that separates the two Persian Gulf rivals, was a "dangerous provocation and intervention." Iran has given the Kurdish rebels their main material and moral support in the fight against the Baathist regime in Baghdad. Iranian arms have been ferried across the mountainous border into Kurdish Iraq to support the rebellion. Indeed, the Iraqis have made no secret of their encouragement for the Kurds. According to Baghdad radio, the two Iraq aircraft were brought down by Iranian ground-to-air missiles in the Kurdish populated region of north Iraq. It said the aircraft were flying at a high altitude when they were brought down "while in Iraqi air space." This is the first incident of its kind since the latest Kurdish war broke out. The Iraqis have been waging a relentless war from the air against Kurdish positions, coming increasingly close to the border with Iran. There have been reports of artillery clashes between Iraq and Iranian troops across the border, but this is the first involving air activity. The two countries have been at loggerheads for some time on ideological grounds. The last time they came face to face was in 1969 over the question of navigational rights in the Shatt al-Arab waterway, which they share at the extreme north of the Persian Gulf. This has been followed by many border clashes.

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Text of communiqué after Martinique summit

Fort de France, Martinique, Dec 16.—This is the text of the communiqué issued at the conference between President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing. The President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, and the President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, met in Martinique December 14-16, 1974, to discuss current issues of mutual concern. As trade agreements were being signed by the Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Henry Kissinger, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean Sauvages, and by Secretary of the Treasury, William Simon, and Minister of Finance, Jean-Pierre Fourcade. The Ministers also held complementary side talks in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual confidence. President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing welcomed the opportunity to conduct detailed substantive discussions on the whole range of subjects of mutual concern. As trading partners and allies, the two nations share common values and goals and the two Presidents expressed their determination to cooperate on this basis in efforts to solve common problems. They reviewed the international situation in the economic, financial and monetary fields. The two Presidents agreed that the Governments of the United States and of the European Community, in the name of which the French President spoke on this subject, most adopt consistent economic policies in order to be effective in avoiding inflation, in particular they agreed on the importance of avoiding measures of a protectionist nature. And they decided to take the initiative in calling additional inter-governmental meetings should they prove necessary for achievement of the desired consistency of basic economic policies among industrial nations.

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OVERSEAS



A group released from detention under military law in the Philippines take an oath of allegiance to the Government. President Marcos has ordered the release of more than 1,000 prisoners.

New Mao quotation foreshadows end of Cultural Revolution era

From David Bonavia Peking, Dec 16 Chairman Mao Tse-tung has declared that it is time for China to "settle down" after the Cultural Revolution which was initiated some eight years ago, usually reliable sources say in Peking.

Japanese businessmen this year. The Cultural Revolution got under way in 1966 and was wound down gradually after it had run its course for a year or two. However it has never been officially declared to have ended.

The leadership's doctrine confirmed at the tenth party congress last year, has emphasized that similar upheavals may be necessary every eight years or so. The campaign against Confucius and Marshal Lin has been represented as only the latest stage in a continuing programme of reform.

Newspapers accused in Morosi affair

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec 16 Members of the federal executive of the Australian Labour Party, who have just concluded a three-day meeting in Canberra, are incensed at the way in which they allege the Australian press has handled the so-called Morosi affair.

Unconfirmed reports have told of disruption in public transport in southern Thailand and coal shortages in the north. Rumour has played on an alleged protest by senior military commanders about the treatment they have received in the past two years' campaign to repudiate the late Marshal Lin Biao.

The economic decline in Western countries has probably been a factor in this shift, as well as a growing conviction in China that the Soviet Union will not dare to attack it in the near future.

On the economic front, harvests have not come up to expectations in the past three years and the still seems to be disheartened about the desirable extent of imports of foreign technology. However the leadership gives the impression of being fairly confident about China's long-term economic prospects as a result of the policy of self-reliance in agriculture and basic industries.

Thai mission leaves for trade talks with China

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Dec 16 A 10-man trade delegation has left Bangkok on the first leg of a journey to Peking and Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. The Thai mission is the most senior yet to visit either country.

It comes after the National Assembly earlier this month repealed a decree which for 15 years made any contact between Thailand and China illegal. The leader of the delegation, Mr Prasong Sukhum, the Deputy Minister of Commerce, said that Thailand hoped to interest the Chinese in selling oil, machinery, medical products and newsprint in return either for commodities such as rubber and tin or for cash.

Zaire leader pays second visit to Peking

From Our Own Correspondent Peking, Dec 16 President Mobutu of Zaire arrived in Peking today in a DC10 jet, believed to be the biggest aircraft ever to land in China. Paying his second state visit to Peking in two years, he travelled from North Korea with a large entourage.

Hongkong officer dismissed

Hongkong, Dec 16—A senior British officer of Hongkong's anti-corruption commission who was fined \$100,000 (€900) on Friday for corruptly accepting a loan, has been dismissed, a spokesman for the commission said today.

Guyana to set up property register for MPs

From Our Correspondent Georgetown, Dec 16 Mr Forbes Burnham, the Prime Minister, told a mass meeting last night of a new code of conduct for the leadership of the ruling People's National Congress. Under this party leaders would be forbidden to accept gifts or from being landlords.

Violence marks anniversary of Bangladesh

Dacca, Dec 16—Bangladesh today celebrated the third anniversary of its independence amid a wave of bombings, armed raids and the deliberate derailment of a train which killed at least two people.

South Vietnam outpost falls to communists

Saigon, Dec 16—Communist forces have seized a Government outpost defended by some 200 militiamen, 70 miles north-east of Saigon, the South Vietnam command said today.

Frontier alert

Bangkok, Dec 16—All border patrol units along the Thai-Cambodian frontier have been alerted after a band of Cambodian soldiers entered Thai territory and abducted two villagers.—Routier.

Bali tiger feared to be extinct

Morges, Switzerland, Dec 16.—The Bali tiger, one of the smallest of the eight sub-species of tiger, is feared to be extinct, the World Wildlife Fund said today.—Routier.

PROPERTY also on page 26

PROPERTY ABROAD avoriz Haute Savoie, France Apartments for sale in this exciting new ski resort...

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Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 27

SECRETARIAL FALL IN FOR FASHION! Superb Secretary P.A. post at top fashion company for clever working in close liaison with the M.D. on Admin., customer and supplier contacts...

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AMERICAN LAWYER in City Centre is seeking Secretary to assist in the management of the office. Hours 9.30-5.30. £250 p.a. neg.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ALSO ON PAGE 6

THEATRES

LYRIC, 01-477 5496, Evesing 8.0... JOHN PAUL GEORGE RINGO... THE NATIONAL OPERA... THE FAIRY QUEEN...

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THEATRES

THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW... THE GENTLE HOOK... THE ROYAL PATENT...

THEATRES

THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW... THE GENTLE HOOK... THE ROYAL PATENT...

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THE ARTS

A 'Titus' well worth hearing

Mozart's La clemenza di Tito, as I reckon it, rates no better than seventh place on the list of his operas. Eugen Jochum and some fine singers make the new production at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin sporadically delightful, but they have uphill work of it.



Horst Laubenthal and Agnes Baltza

Photograph by Ilse Buhs

THEATRES

WYNHAMS (836 3281) at 8.30, 5.30 & 8.30... THE DAME OF SARK... THE GINGERBREAD LADY...

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8661... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

THEATRES

THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW... THE GENTLE HOOK... THE ROYAL PATENT...

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THEATRES

THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW... THE GENTLE HOOK... THE ROYAL PATENT...

through and through, and whenever one cannot fully agree with his interpretation, one willingly respects it.

The performance began ominously with an announcement from the stage describing Agnes Baltza, in the role of Sempronia, as suffering from a slight cold but 'freundlicher Weise' willing to go on.

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Paul Klee in 1939

Klee on the edge of anxiety

The beautiful exhibition Paul Klee: the last years, shown at the Edinburgh Festival in September, has now opened in London at the Hayward Gallery. Organized by Douglas Hall of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art...

Amadeus Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie None of Beethoven's quartets, except possibly Op 130 in its original form, is interpreted as demanding as the C sharp minor, with its unbroken span of 40 minutes during which so much happens.

Bettina Jonic Royal Court

Robert Shelton A brilliant, innovating approach to the complex world of two seminal songwriters, Bertolt Brecht and Bob Dylan, was offered on Sunday by a singer of accomplished background and rare sensibility.

Monteverdi's Orfeo at Oxford

The Oxford University Opera Club, the longest established in Britain, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. This season's major production is of Monteverdi's Orfeo, at the Oxford Playhouse from February 18 to February 22.

Advertisement for Sotheby's. It features a large image of a silver chalice or goblet. The text reads: 'Last week at Sotheby's. Sales of silver and plate take place each Thursday throughout the auction season at our Bond Street sale rooms or at Sotheby's Belgraveia at 101 Bond Street...'

Advertisement for English National Opera. It features the text: 'English National Opera is back in action! Full schedule of published performances over Christmas and the New Year. London Coliseum 01-836-3161'

Advertisement for EQUUS. It features the text: 'EQUUS Sensationally good. The National Theatre at the Old Vic 01-928 7616'

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Working conditions in our remodelled Brentford Head Office are pleasant, and there is a substantial staff canteen.

Applicants should write with full curriculum vitae (motor trade experience essential) to Mr. N. Farbridge, Financial Director, at BMW Concessionaires GB Ltd, 991 Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. TW9 8ED.

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The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Ministry of Overseas Development. For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to:

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to: crown agents M Division, 4 Millbank London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M3C/740823/TA.

Apply with full details and the names of two referees to The Director of Legal Studies, The College of Law, 27 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1NL from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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This is an opportunity for someone with considerable Finance House experience, possibly now an Accounts Manager with one of the larger companies, to take over a department controlling all accounts operated by a well-established and developing British corporation, based out of London. He will work closely with the newly appointed Financial Controller and will be responsible for all routine accounting matters involved in the operation of both instalment credit and commercial banking (current, loan and deposit) accounts, and for the preparation of management information and statistics relating to these accounts.

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Applications are invited for the post of Superintendent in the River Tweed Commission. Salary to be negotiated. Please forward applications to A. MUIR STURROCK, 15, Clerk, River Tweed Commissioners, Jedburgh who will supply details of the post.

MANAGEMENT TODAY

A lot can happen between leaving school and starting a job. The chances are that you are occupying a position that is not at present utilizing your full potential. We are currently recruiting for graduates between the ages of 17-22. In this regard, men and women are equally encouraged. Salaries are from £1,500 p.a. An immediate interview call for details. 088 0117. ORANGE PERSONNEL.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of Western Australia PERTH

Applications are invited for the following appointments: ANTHROPOLOGY TUTOR, SENIOR TUTOR. In the Department of Anthropology, candidates should hold an honours or higher degree in Anthropology or its equivalent and have had practical experience in field research. Preference will be given to applicants who have had practical experience in field research in the tropics or sub-tropics.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS Monash University MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA CHAIR OF FLUID MECHANICS

Applications are invited for a Chair of Fluid Mechanics, newly created in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Monash University, Victoria, Australia. The holder of the Chair will be expected to carry out research in the field of fluid mechanics, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS CENTRE FOR RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SENIOR FELLOW OR FELLOW

The Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies is seeking applications for a Senior Fellow or Fellow. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of resource and environmental studies, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of London UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD CHIEF EXAMINERS

The Council of the University of London is seeking applications for the post of Chief Examiner. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out the duties of a Chief Examiner, and to supervise the work of other examiners.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of their own speciality, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Applications are invited for appointments in the field of Biological Sciences. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of their own speciality, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of Rhodesia INSTITUTE OF MINING RESEARCH LONRHO FELLOWSHIP IN ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

This fellowship is sponsored by the Institute of Mining Research, University of Rhodesia. The holder of the fellowship will be expected to carry out research in the field of economic geology, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA PSYCHOLOGY LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Psychology. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of psychology, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS Australian National University PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for a Professional Fellowship. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of their own speciality, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of Papua New Guinea LECTURESHIP or (b) LECTURESHIP IN PLANT PATHOLOGY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship or Lectureship in Plant Pathology. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of plant pathology, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of New South Wales DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY LECTURER

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Industrial Chemistry. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of industrial chemistry, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The holder of the post will be expected to carry out research in the field of their own speciality, and to supervise the work of postgraduate students.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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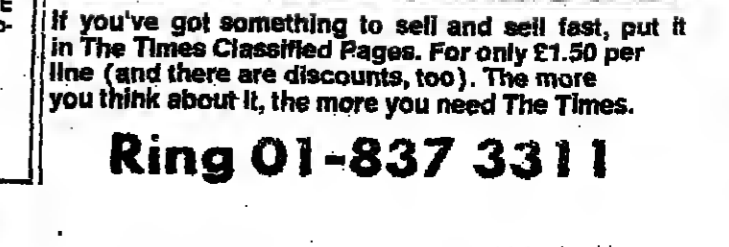
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Penfold can look to 1975 with a smile

By Peter Ryde Golf Correspondent
The prospect for professional golf in 1975 is not all gloomy. The American firm of Colgate-Palmolive yesterday announced a substantial injection of prize money...

Rugby Union

Cotton given captaincy for final trial

By Peter West Rugby Correspondent

The England captain, John Pullin, has been relegated to the Rest XV in Saturday's final trial at Twickenham, and substituted in the senior side by Peter Wheeler...



Fran Cotton: He captains the England XV in the trial.

After his face injury at Reading, if Ripley should repeat his challenge to No 8, Dixon could still be switched back to a flank in the eventual England XV...

Boxing

Buchanan retains European title after disappointing display

From Neil Allen Boxing Correspondent Paris, Dec 16

Britain's Ken Buchanan retained his European lightweight title here this evening at the Palais des Sports exhibition hall when the seconds of his French challenger, Leonard Taveaz, threw in the towel early in the 14th round...

been lacking in strength and judgment of distance in his punching. There were times when he seemed to be in a bit of a muddle...

Football

George and Sprake ask for transfers

Gary Sprake, who commanded a £50,000 when he was bought by Birmingham City from Leeds United in October of last year, and George, the Arsenal forward, were yesterday placed on transfer.

Colquhoun, Sheffield United's former Scotland international centre half, was suspended for three matches when he failed in an appeal to an FA disciplinary committee in London yesterday.

Yessers glad to see larger field in Open

The second year in successive years of the larger-sized field will be compulsory for the golf championship at the end of next July.

Davis Cup form would alter with sponsorship

Melbourne, Dec 16.—The Davis Cup will inevitably become a sponsored tournament, Wayne Reid, president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia (LTA), said today.

A beaten Borg says it is no fun playing any more

Sydney, Dec 16.—Bjorn Borg, of Sweden, was beaten by a little-known Australian in the second round of the New South Wales Tennis championship here today.

York, it was his biggest win in two years. He arrived here only yesterday and had to survive a hard first round match this morning.

Wigan fail to support claims for League membership

Mansfield 3 Wigan 1 Wigan Athletic's ambitions to support their claims for League membership with a successful FA Cup campaign were destroyed in their second round replay at Mansfield last night.

No experience in England forward line

The England Under-23 team will have to field a forward line almost without experience in representative football against Scotland at Aberdeen tomorrow evening.

Leaders in World Cup can afford to miss slalom

Madonna di Campiglio, Dec 15. An epic battle is expected here over the next two days in the last two slalom races of this year counting for the World Cup.

Oxford and Cambridge more evenly matched

From a Special Correspondent Davos, Dec 16
The Oxford and Cambridge University skiing match will begin here tomorrow with the giant slalom event on Wednesday with the special slalom, combined with the slalom, on Thursday.

Elementary for Watson at Marlborough

By Our Rackets Correspondent Five Marlborough players won their opening matches in the event of the schools rackets championships at Queen's Club yesterday.

Lloyd ready to help England over effects of Brisbane

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent Perth, Dec 16
In the second Test match continues here tomorrow David Lloyd will come in next, to continue his innings which was interrupted yesterday evening when he took a ball from Geoffrey Thomas in the stomach.

W reports

Table with columns: North State, LCU, Pisto, Weather, and various numerical data points.

Skating

Two Italian favourites to win the cup, last year's champion, Piero Gros, and the 24-year-old veteran Gustavo Thoenen, who has held the title four times, can afford no mistakes if they are to keep within striking distance of Klammer.

Rackets

There were some respectable rallies. Kirkbride, the smaller player, covered the court well, but lacked the power to finish. The winner would be a better player if he used the angles more often.

Cricket

All kinds of reasons are being suggested for England's present difficulties, some technical, some mental, but it is clear that more than others. Even allowing for the shocking bad luck with injuries, their batting on Friday was mostly too slow to be of any use.

Sussex wait to see Thomson

The Sussex County Cricket Club chairman, Douglas Wishin, said yesterday that he had issued no directive to Tony Greig to approach the Australian bowler Jeffrey Thomson, with a view to playing for the county.



Lillie (left) and Thomson may not stunlock England as badly in the remainder of the series as they did in Brisbane.

SPORT

Racing

Chepstow flourishing with Hughes's imaginative flair

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent
A quiet week as far as racing is concerned will end with an imaginative day's racing at Chepstow...

today more than Mr. I. Kerman, the chairman of Plumpton and for a long time one of the late Major Cazale's owners at Fairwinds...

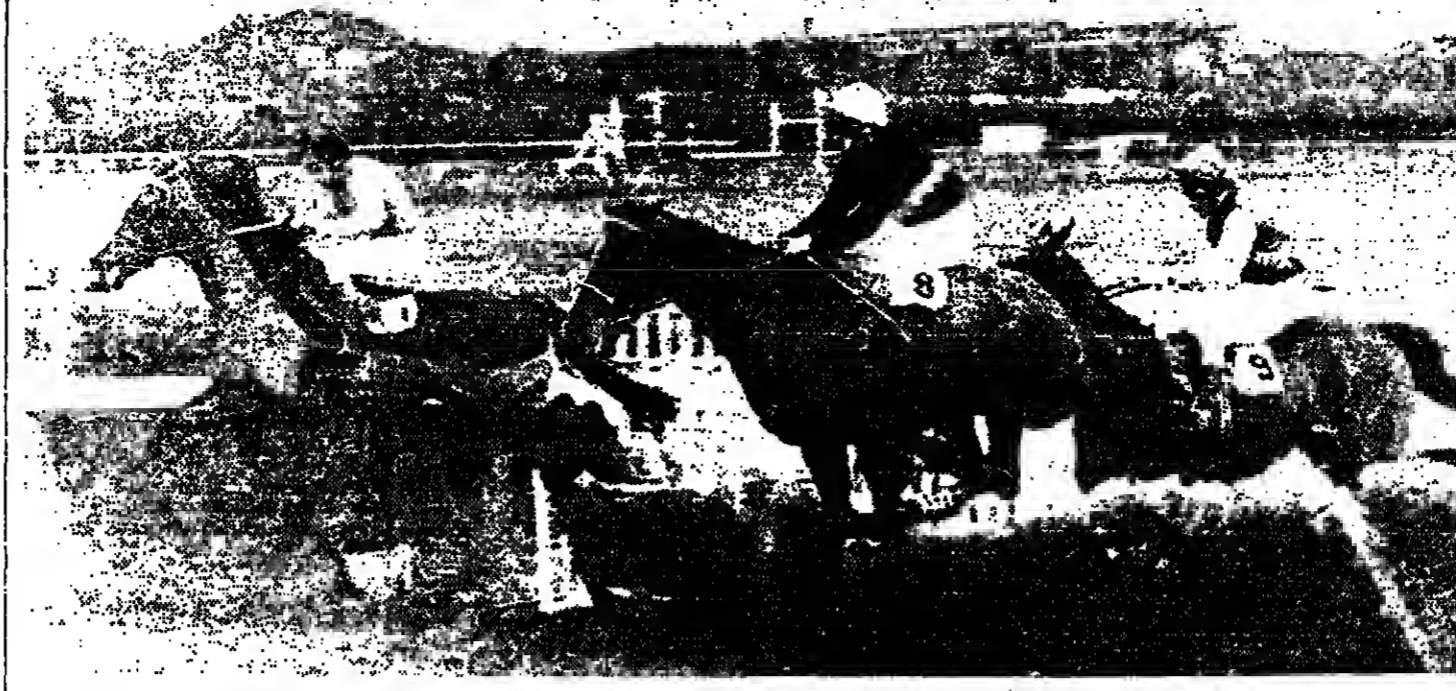
Plumpton programme

- 12.45 KEYMER STEEPLECHASE (E550: 3m)
13.15 HENFIELD HURDLE (E204: 2m)
1.45 PETER CAZALE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: E687: 2m)

- 2.15 CUCKERBEE STEEPLECHASE (Novices: E272: 2m)
2.45 DECEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: 4-y-o: E442: 2m)
3.15 DITCHING HURDLE (Novices: E204: 3m)

Leicester results

12.45 HURDLE (Handicap: E241: 2m)
13.15 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)
1.45 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)



Favorite style. Papa Noel, ridden by Paul Kelleway, takes the last flight of hurdles just behind Bungebad, whom he went on to beat by five lengths in the Ivy Handicap Hurdle at Leicester. Ideotto Miway (Redvers Weaver) takes up the rear.

Even Dawn to miss Aintree in favour of Cheltenham

Even Dawn, the winner of the Holy Handicap Steeplechase at Leicester yesterday, has earned himself a place in the E7,500 Whitbread Northern Handicap Trophy at Newcastle in January...

Apprentice scores 51.5th victory in one year

Laurel, Maryland, Dec 16.—Apprentice jockey Christopher McCarron, equalled the world record here today for the most victories to a single year...

Warwick programme

- 12.30 WARWICK STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: E204: 2m)
1.45 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)
2.30 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)

- 2.45 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)
3.15 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)
3.45 HURDLE (Handicap: E204: 2m)

Warwick selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.30 Quinits, 1.0 King Credo, 1.30 Highland Explorer, 2.0 Spartan, 2.30 Charley Arlie, 3.0 King Neptune.

Plumpton selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.45 Khan, 1.15 Osago Gold, 1.45 Chace a Look, 2.15 Good Relations, 2.45 Young Robert, 3.15 Miller Boy.

Plumpton selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.45 Khan, 1.15 Osago Gold, 1.45 Chace a Look, 2.15 Good Relations, 2.45 Young Robert, 3.15 Miller Boy.

Finance Bill change to assist work on fire precautions

House of Commons
MR ROY JENKINS, Home Secretary (Birmingham, Stechford, Lab.), made a statement about the two recent tragic fires.

He said: The first occurred at the Grand Metropolitan Hotels staff hostel at 9-17 Clifton Gardens, London, W9, shortly after 3 am on Friday, December 13. The premises comprise five inter-linked terrace houses...

When the Secretary of State for Social Services asks for a report, could he ask her to bear in mind the possibility in this case that the difficulty was in no way lack of fire precautions...

£503m on food subsidies helping to hold prices

MR NEUBERT (Havering, Romford, C) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection...

On a departmental review of 1974, I will be making a decision on this. The Act does not make the fire hazard a step forward, but no expert in this House can alter the position of fire precautions...

Lions in a corner eating humble Christmas pie

John Reason's account of the British Lions tour in South Africa last summer must, for its technical analysis and the colourful details of its reporting, be required reading for those who are interested in the game...

selection and coaching of their players — the last of which, I believe, they failed to make the best use of their material...

Request for Government to help safety measures

An attempt to force Government to sponsor statutory safety work at sports grounds was made in the Lords yesterday by Lord Wigg...

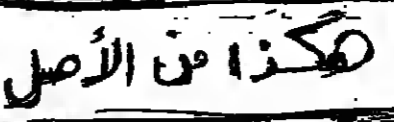
Request for Government to help safety measures

which the sporting organizations have created or allowed in the first place. The Minister of State, Home Office, Lord Harris of Greenwich, replied that Lord Wigg had claimed the Arts Council was to get £6m more...

More tax than subsidy

MR GOW (Eastbourne, C) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would consider the possibility of...





In best interests of Britain and EEC that speedy progress be made in renegotiations

MR HAROLD WILSON, Prime Minister (Huyton, Lab), in a statement at a meeting in the House of Commons on the European Community and a conclusion set out in a communiqué published as a White Paper, said:

The House will see from the White Paper that a considerable number of the issues, in particular the economic situation, trade, employment and inflation.

A high priority was given by all us to the problems posed by a world of general recession, and in this connexion discussed the policies to be followed by individual countries.

Community, and the wider world. Federal German Chancellor Willy Brandt has in his country on which announcements were subsequently made by government and the German Parliament. Since they involve a radical measure of deflation by surplus currency, I am sure all in this House will warmly come to them.

In energy we sought to get an agreed consensus of views between the European Governments and the United States, and in particular the possibility of co-operation between oil-producing and oil-importing countries. This meant that I was present in his discussions this week with the President of the United States would have a clearer idea of the ideas and hopes of us on these matters.

Co-operation in the field of energy is to be pursued further at a meeting of energy Ministers in Brussels tomorrow (Monday), and the renegotiation of the agreement on which Britain entered the Community in 1971. I urged the other heads of government to work towards an agreement, and the particular as to which we attach high priority, the issues set out in the White Paper, and to be endorsed again by the Prime Minister on the 17th of October. I informed them of the progress made in the question of Britain's contribution to the Community and appropriate income-giving to the Community.

Now we get to work to set as soon as possible the mechanism referred to in the communiqué. We have a firm proposal and so on this by the early 1975.

Since the communiqué was published, anxiety has been expressed by many of us about two matters. The one relates to the principle of the majority and the Luxembourg compromise, and the other to the principle of the majority voting procedure.

I can assure the House that there is no question at all—and that this is the view of all the heads of Government—of any member state, when important national interests are at stake, being required to set those interests aside as a result of a majority voting procedure.

The communiqué makes it plain that each country will continue to be free to maintain its own position on the Luxembourg compromise of 1965. What the meeting had in mind was the desirability of having too frequent a recourse to the Luxembourg compromise on relatively minor matters were involved.

The other issue related to the desire of most heads of government to progress towards the election of a European Assembly by universal suffrage. I made it clear that the British view was that the principle of universal suffrage should be considered by a meeting of heads of government a year or more from now.

The heads of government also reached decisions on the regional development fund. The fund will be endowed with £300 million (about £540m) over the three years 1975 to 1977. Twenty-eight per cent of the fund will be allocated to the United Kingdom. Our net share of the fund could turn out to be about £60m in all. Compared with the Government's own regional expenditure of about £500m a year, the results will be modest.

I was particularly concerned to press upon our colleagues the importance of national government to the Community, and particularly at a time of anxiety about employment, being able to act speedily with existing, and where necessary new, machinery for dealing with regional development.

On this I found full understanding among the other heads of government.

I understand of course that such action should not offend against the Community rules of free competition, and that any such action should be taken in order to attract some new development, for example by an American-owned company.

I have referred to institutional aspects of the Community. There is a general feeling that there should be important decisions taken quickly and effectively at the political level, both by foreign and other ministers and by heads of government themselves.

The meeting in Paris was in effect the start of a new phase. In future there will be three meetings a year, and more if they are required to deal with the new phase. It is clear that we were not dissatisfied with the progress made on the budgetary question, there was a substantial number of other matters on which we should expect satisfaction.

There is still a long way to go if Britain's essential requirements are to be met, and it is in the best interests of this country and of Europe that speedy progress be made and the issues decided.

These questions will be taken up in meetings in London in the Year of the Council of Ministers, and as appropriate, at the next heads of government meeting to be held in the new year, or under the Presidency of the Irish Republic.

MR ERATH, Leader of the Opposition (Bexley, Sdcp, C), said: We welcome the fact that the Prime Minister put his name to everything in the communiqué, and that the communiqué was adopted by the heads of government at the Copenhagen summit a year ago.

The work of the heads of government was left in a state of confusion into a number of groupings. We welcome those to improve the working of the Community and to make it more effective. It is possible for foreign ministers to deal with political cooperation at the same time, which has always been the case. It is an important decision that the Luxembourg compromise should be renounced. This is not quite as

of course the right to preserve national interests remains.

The group of proposals which will affect people in the Community. The study of common competition, and common aid legislation will be step forward and bind people in the Community closer together.

I welcome the fact that the heads of government agreed they would pursue the Paris summit agreement in achieving the concept of a European union and struck to the date of achieving this by 1980.

The method of approach of the Belgian Prime Minister producing a report on this by the end of 1975 is a good way of handling the subject. It is a matter for the Prime Minister and conference confirmed that the objective of the Paris summit was still there and not changed.

The House will welcome the work done by the summit in dealing with the unemployment problem. This, I would have thought, was an admirable example of member states in the Community working together when the necessary occasion arises.

I welcome the establishment of the regional development fund. It is only half of what we had hoped for, but it is a beginning on which all governments can work.

Although £60m is a small proportion compared with what we spend, £60m is a large amount compared with the contribution of this country towards the Community as a whole.

On the question of the budget we welcome the fact that we are now dealing with it in the interests of the Community as a whole and not only Britain.

The Copenhagen summit and all the agreements point to a dynamic Community working towards a solution of the problems of the world in the long term. (Conservative cheers.)

MR WILSON—Mr Heath is entering the communiqué, and that is the way in which we should deal with it. It is an important decision that the Luxembourg compromise should be renounced. This is not quite as

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There was no disagreement whatsoever. When I asked the question "Does this mean if there is a vital national interest this cannot be altered?" the answer was of course "No." We agreed that would all want to see it from time to time but not over-use it.

Regarding the question of European unity, it is a desirable objective but there was no agreement on what it meant at the Paris summit. It is a matter for the Council of Ministers at Easter. The Foreign Secretary asked each of the other eight heads of government what they thought was no agreement whatsoever about what the phrase means.

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It is clear, as it was in Mr Heath's day, that in the years immediately after the entry into the Community, when it was a net disbalance to Britain, when it was a net disbalance to the oil and the rest of it, the terms of renegotiation are such that we are still in the market. We would feel it important to have a better contribution while making a smaller contribution in the late 1970s.

MR JAY (Wandsworth, Barts, Lab) said: What Mr Wilson said about the Luxembourg agreement was not what was in the communiqué (cheers)—and as it is rather important to be clear on the issue, will be said clearly if we renounced the Luxembourg agreement or not?

MR WILSON—We have renounced the practice of making agreement on all questions of unanimous consent, whatever the conditions reached on January 22, 1966.

MR RUSSELL JOHNSTON (Inverness, L)—How does the Prime Minister square the refusal to improve the democratization of the Community and the rejection of the Government's proposal for a common currency with the early European economic and monetary union?

A simple union, as was strongly proposed by the Prime Minister, would mean that every country would have to pursue the same policy. It is very hard to see who the need at the present time is for Germany to reflate and for others to draw in their horns considering the inflationary pressure.

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MR BOTTOMLEY (Aston, Middlesex, Lab)—Are the renegotiations Mr Wilson is concluding within the terms of the Labour Party manifesto at the last general election?

MR WILSON—Yes entirely. (Conservative laughter.) They are entirely consistent with what we asked for in 1966 and 1967.

There are seven points on which we are insisting. We have made good progress on the budgetary side and one or two others may not appear as difficult as they did, like VAT where harmonization seems almost a dirty word.

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The Treaty of Accession in the House in Opposition I was referring to the terms negotiated. It is clear that Mr Heath was a soft touch, and was so regarded in Europe. I believe the terms out of the Treaty of Accession.

That does not mean we have to lay down under the appalling surplus that the Government has accumulated. The problems the housewife is facing in this country are due to the sell-out by the Government on the sugar terms.

The terms of the Treaty of Accession are to be varied not by changes in the Treaty, but by changes in the way of changing the terms which Mr Heath negotiated three years ago. We are making some progress—not fast enough—but considering what Mr Heath gave away we are not doing badly.

What I said about commending this was entirely in accordance with the Labour Party manifesto. I stand by the requirements we have set out and if we get them then we are doing well for the country. If not, we will have to make other arrangements.

MR THORPE (North Devon, Lab)—What was Mr Wilson's return to health, both physical and European. We recognize all the reservations, the cautions, conditions and apprehensions, the strictures on the inadequacy of the Opposition in their negotiations and all that, but many of us think that Mr Wilson is doing well and we congratulate him.

MR WILSON—I am not exactly sure what caused my disability. (Conservative shout of "Sleeping in the chair.") I am not sure to what some good, plain English food and beer. (Laughter.)

MR MARTEN (Banbury, C)—What is meant by political union?

MR WILSON—I have not heard any clear definition of what political union means. It is a desirable objective in principle but no one has said what they mean by it.

MR HEATH—Will the Prime Minister abandon this sham of a renegotiation? Will he accept the Treaty and the Treaty of Accession. Let him tell the country honestly that he is using the normal machinery for making adjustments as we go along. (Conservative cheers.)

MR WILSON—We are using such machinery as is available to speedily make adjustments in the renegotiations. On every stage point where I have reserved our position today I reserved it specifically and in terms last week.

Modest results

On institutional matters generally, the House will have seen that the Prime Minister of Belgium, M Tindemans, has been invited to prepare a report on the institutional development of the Community, so that this can be considered by a meeting of heads of government a year or more from now.

The heads of government also reached decisions on the regional development fund. The fund will be endowed with £300 million (about £540m) over the three years 1975 to 1977. Twenty-eight per cent of the fund will be allocated to the United Kingdom. Our net share of the fund could turn out to be about £60m in all. Compared with the Government's own regional expenditure of about £500m a year, the results will be modest.

I was particularly concerned to press upon our colleagues the importance of national government to the Community, and particularly at a time of anxiety about employment, being able to act speedily with existing, and where necessary new, machinery for dealing with regional development.

Denial of concept

I do not find anyone in Paris who believes that the renegotiation of the economic and monetary union commended by Mr Heath by 1980. The view of my colleagues was that it would not become a reality in the near future.

When Mr Heath rightly praised the action taken by particular countries following different economic policies that is a laudable objective, it is rather important to be clear on the issue, will be said clearly if we renounced the Luxembourg agreement or not?

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Complaining about inflation and action to deal with it

ADLEY (Christchurch and Weymouth, C) asked the Secretary for Prices and Consumer Credit what was the increase in the cost of living over the past months.

ALAN WILLIAMS, Minister for Prices and Consumer Credit (Swansea, West, Lab)—Retail price index for November was 18.3 per cent higher than for 1973. The increase in the cost of living for November was 4.9 per cent.

ADLEY—Why are senior ministers ducking embarrassing questions? Will the Chairman of the Select Committee on the House of State (Mrs Williams) compensate pensioners and on fixed incomes for this rising and growing inflation? Will she try to persuade the Cabinet to try an effective income policy?

WILLIAMS—Mrs Williams is ducking questions about inflation. The question of an inflation policy is for another year.

JOHN GARRETT (Norwich, Lab) What effect has the rise in the cost of living in the past three months?

WILLIAMS—I am not sure, it has had an impact on the health prospects of certain elderly pensioners.

ROST (South East Derbyshire, C)—In the October election Mr Williams said price rises were down, and the Chancellor said the rate of inflation was 8.4 per cent. Since then, price rises doubled.

WILLIAMS—Last month's increases were in January under the Conservatives.

There have been two abnormal rises on the food side. First was milk, and the second was butter. These are being caused by the fact that the Government has not been able to get the price of milk and butter down to a level which would allow the farmer to produce milk and butter at a profit.

Second, the world price of sugar has risen through increased demand for goods like biscuits and sweets.

MRS OPPENHEIM (Gloucester, C)—The three-monthly rate of inflation of 8.4 per cent quoted by the Chancellor and the Secretary of State during the election was a gross monthly rate. The three-monthly rate is 21.3 per cent. The nine and a half months of dramatic, fairly general government is over, and it is becoming a waiting nightmare for the people of this country (Labour interruptions).

It is clear to everybody that the Government have no effective plans for tackling inflation. They have a rate of inflation, about the social contract, and the economic situation. (Conservative cheers and Labour protests.)

MR WILLIAMS—I thought she was going to blow a gasket. It is depressing, week after week, listening to the Opposition knocking every single action taken by the Government to try to control inflation. The Opposition, while never coming forward with positive suggestions themselves.

MR RAYSON (Aylesbury, C) during later exchanges with the Secretary of State, said:—To the country's present economic condition, we are in no position to go on increasing food subsidies indefinitely. It would be wrong to increase subsidies on commodities like wheat and maize for huge rates of wage inflation.

MRS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS—The Opposition must accept that there is deep ambiguity in their position. Every month they complain about the rate of inflation; every month they complain about actions the Government take to reduce it. (Labour cheers.)

Preventing abuses in 'special offers'

MR ALAN WILLIAMS, Minister of State—The Director General of Fair Trading has invited evidence on misleading price comparisons, including abuses of the kind Mrs Heywood has mentioned, in connection with a possible reference to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee.

MRS BELENE HAYMAN (Weymouth, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what measures to stop the abuse of pricing policy on special offers? Will the Government consider the possibility of special offers? Will the Government consider the possibility of special offers? Will the Government consider the possibility of special offers?

MRS HAYMAN—I will make representations to the Director General. One of the most irritating things for shoppers is the use of a price which is 20 per cent less than it was a week before, when in fact it is selling for 1p more. This can be bought more cheaply than the original price. It is a method of trying to induce shoppers to buy a certain brand leads to anomalies such as the price of a tin of soup being 1p more than the price of a tin of soup.

MRS JANEET FOOKES (Plymouth, Drake, C)—Is the Director General taking into account one of my queries, the one which I believe ought to be abolished? "MR WILLIAMS—Yes, he is taking that into account."

Mr Mason contends defence review takes account of economic and security realities

MR MASON, Secretary of State for Defence (Barnes, Lab), said that the House take note of the defence review had been taken into account in the decision to reduce defence commitments and resources available since the post-1945 rundown. It would be a mistake to think that the review was a simple exercise in cutting defence expenditure.

Within the Nato area, they would concentrate efforts on those elements which were most effective and essential.

One priority was the land and air forces. The Warsaw Pact confronted the alliance with a marked superiority in manpower and conventional weapons. The land and air forces were the direct security of the United Kingdom including the ability, which would not be impeded by the review, to continue to deploy adequate numbers of troops in Northern Ireland. They must also ensure the use of the home based forces in support of the Nato allies.

It was proposed to maintain the effectiveness of the land and air forces by reducing the land and air forces to a level which would be sufficient to maintain the security of the United Kingdom.

The Royal Marines, who provided the landing force element of the amphibious force would be reduced to a level which would be sufficient to maintain the security of the United Kingdom.

The review would be a simple exercise in cutting defence expenditure. It would be a mistake to think that the review was a simple exercise in cutting defence expenditure.

and this example were followed by other countries there was a serious risk that the credibility of Nato strategy would be destroyed. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

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Revised price code out on Wednesday

MR ALISON (Barkislee, C) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what monitoring of the effect of the cash flow position of smaller food manufacturing companies caused by price controls was undertaken by the department to show many redundancies or closures had occurred in this context.

MRS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS (Hendon and Stevenage, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what steps would be taken to ensure that the price code would offer an opportunity to bear his views.

He had already begun detailed consultations with Nato allies in Brussels last week but emphasized Britain's firm commitment to Nato, and explained the basic principles which guided the Government during the review.

He had accepted the invitation of his Euro-group minister colleagues to attend a meeting in Brussels to discuss the review.

The Nato allies were considering the defence review proposals in order to give them an adequate time to give their views on what they proposed and give as a considered reaction, we shall not be in a position to set our final decisions until the White Paper.

What the Government had proposed would start to release resources which help the British economic health without any defence posture, in Nato or elsewhere, would be of any use.

A Government's greatest service to its people is the preservation of life and freedom. (Conservative cheers.) They had followed that concept since 1945. The Government was satisfied that the proposals did not imperil the security of the nation but strengthen it. The review would enable Britain to play her part in the defence of the West and its freedoms more effectively than ever before.

After all the concluded the country's defence will only be as strong as the economy permits. (Labour cheers.)

could devote to defence they were putting forward to the allies proposed conclusions. Final decisions would not be taken until the price code had been put into operation with the allies had taken place.

The review had been received with sympathetic understanding of the need to reduce defence expenditure which led to the carrying out of the review.

Some talks at official level had already taken place with the allies regarding the consequences of the withdrawal from Singapore and the visit of the Australian Prime Minister to London last week would offer an opportunity to bear his views.

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He had accepted the invitation of his Euro-group minister colleagues to attend a meeting in Brussels to discuss the review.

The Nato allies were considering the defence review proposals in order to give them an adequate time to give their views on what they proposed and give as a considered reaction, we shall not be in a position to set our final decisions until the White Paper.

What the Government had proposed would start to release resources which help the British economic health without any defence posture, in Nato or elsewhere, would be of any use.

A Government's greatest service to its people is the preservation of life and freedom. (Conservative cheers.) They had followed that concept since 1945. The Government was satisfied that the proposals did not imperil the security of the nation but strengthen it. The review would enable Britain to play her part in the defence of the West and its freedoms more effectively than ever before.

After all the concluded the country's defence will only be as strong as the economy permits. (Labour cheers.)

Quarrels between US and Nine thing of past

use of Lords

and the Community would dissolve and they would all have to take cover in the same dugout.

LAOY TWEEDSMUIR of BELLEVILLE (C), chairman of the European Community, said there should be a regular procedure of informing Parliament of any important modification made by the Council working parties or in Commission proposals. They should be informed of the Commission's management committee, such as the hatter motion.

If the Government finally decided to recommend that Britain should stay in the EEC, there should be a referendum on the subject before the people were asked to decide through the ballot box.

LORO OUDLEY (C) said it was time for Britain to make up its mind about Europe, the European Community, and the public quarrels which it had been making. It was time for Britain to make up its mind about Europe, the European Community, and the public quarrels which it had been making.

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Future site of Public Search Room

LORD TEVIOT, opening a short debate on the essential need to keep the public search room of the Register General's Department at St Catherine's House, was supported by many people, including the Conservative Party.

It was also used by many familiar faces, the regulars associated with the legal profession and members of the public. The search room was to be located in North-west London, journey by rail was inconvenient and at present cost over £11.

The office was one of the parts of the heritage and should be kept in London.

LORD MOWBRAY and **STOURTON** (C) said in London everything was centralized for the scholar, the legal expert and the serious researcher and they could not be expected to go to Southport for an afternoon to use this office, as they did while in central London.

To move it to a remote site would be a disaster.

LORD WELLS-PESTELL, Lord in Waiting, said no decision had been made on the proposed site. He would be a useful contribution to the consideration which was being given to the subject.

300 people used the public search room every week, but a similar number of certificates were issued as a result of postal applications. They had some idea of the strength of feeling inside and outside the House but they were under the impression that the Herdman report to consider carefully the duty that was put upon him in the matter of the dispersal of government offices.

House adjourned, 8.26 pm.

Reek of expedients in face of pressure

MR PETER WALKER, Opposition spokesman on the defence (Wrexham, C), moved amendments regarding the statement which imperilled the nation's security.

He said the first thing wrong was that the review was a simple exercise in cutting defence expenditure.

The second basic weakness was that it must have been the first defence review in history which had been based on the strength of allies and enemies. This was no way to conduct a defence review.

Defence was a fundamental and basic form of expenditure which should only be diminished if the world situation enabled it to be.

For the Government to decide on substantial further cuts on a military basis and not on the basis of any necessary defence requirements was to reduce their expenditure, was a thoroughly bad example to the western alliance.

The reality was that the review did not start due to the aggressiveness of the democracies. The political leaders of the democracies were not the aggressors, they represented and shared with equal intensity their responsibility for war. It was the totalitarian regimes of the East that had been the threat to world peace.

World was started when the democracies were too frightened, too cowardly or just too tired. The major totalitarian power in terms of military might today was the Soviet Union, and it was significant that the Soviet Government described this defence review as a step in the right direction. (Conservative laughter.)

The Soviet Government were not

Parliamentary Notices

House of Lords
Today (Tuesday) will be the second day of the Bill second reading on the EEC document on Community laws.

House of Commons
Today (Tuesday) will be the second day of the Bill second reading on the EEC document on Community laws.

Rules for wine sold by the carafe or glass

MISS JANET FOOKES (Plymouth, Drake, C) asked what progress the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was making with the extension to a wide variety of goods of the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 1968 in prescribed standardized quantities.

MR ALAN WILLIAMS, Minister of State—Preliminary consultations were opened last week on proposals relating to biscuits and other goods. In the new year I also expect to be able to announce proposals for wine sold by the carafe and by the glass. I am endeavouring to ease the burden on the consumer of the problem of employment in this area.

The added value (the added) will be laid before the House on Wednesday.

MR GILES SHAW (Hudsey, C)—In the House of Commons, the industry has had from the food industry, is she aware that in the case of the concessions in the code and the flow of goods as well as the outflow to that industry of many millions of pounds?

MRS WILLIAMS—This is one of the things we have had in mind in discussions, and I also have a great responsibility to try to reduce the rate of the increased rate of inflation.

Quarrels between US and Nine thing of past

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Rules for wine sold by the carafe or glass

MISS JANET FOOKES (Plymouth, Drake, C) asked what progress the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was



**Fragrance isn't
just for roses!**

The manufacturers of polishes, soaps, window cleaners, aerosol sprays, shampoos, washing powders, floor cleaners, shaving cream – and even the people who make paints, plastics and fuel oils – will tell you the importance of fragrance to consumer product loyalty in their markets.

Those are just a few of the products that, without added fragrance, would not be as pleasant to use. Finding and producing suitable fragrances that appeal to consumers, which are stable and stay fresh during the life of the product and above all are economic for the manufacturer, is a tricky job. It's a job for specialists.

That's where Albright & Wilson come in.

Our perfumers are artists in fragrance. They work with a team of technicians in our applications laboratories at Walthamstow to produce new odours and test them in the products for which they are intended. On a laboratory scale they produce, soaps and cosmetic creams, fill and test aerosols, make shampoos and put them through their paces in our hairdressing salon.

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We produce the materials used by some of the world's leading perfumers. In some countries our own retail brands of perfume outsell all others!

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Bernard Levin

The best place to fight prejudice is out in the open

When the uproar over the anti-Zionist advertisement in this paper began, I must confess to an unworthy feeling of relief, closely akin to that presumably experienced by a fox which, having gone to earth in an attempt to evade the hounds, puts his terrified head out of the burrow for a peep at the situation, and discovers that the hounds are in full cry after his brother. No doubt it is distressing for a fox to see his brother torn to pieces by savage dogs, but no doubt it is much more so for him to suffer the same fate himself. I am, as may well be supposed, no stranger to uproar, but more to the point, I am no stranger to this particular brand of uproar. I once caused the entire postal system of the Daily Mail to collapse by writing an article, not long before the Six Day War, sharply criticising what I felt were some quite unacceptable remarks by the Chief Rabbi concerning a supposed "duty" of the Jews to Israel; though Dr Jakobovits himself was magnanimously unresentful of what I wrote, well over 1,000 letters of protest poured in to the editor from those determined to bring me to book. I got the most part displaying a most distasteful fanaticism and intolerance towards any criticism of Israel. But what was most interesting about the episode, and in its way the most disarming, was that of the letters written to me (there were about 1,000 of those, too), as distinct from those addressed to the editor, a substantial majority of those from Jewish correspondents said that they agreed with what I had written but were reluctant or afraid to say so publicly, for fear of the consequences to social and family criticism or even ostracism.

It is against that background of personal experience, therefore, that I offer a comment on the advertisement that caused the fuss, on the fuss that it caused, and on the decision by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to seek the prosecution of The Times under the Race Relations Act. The advertisement seemed to me to be silly, nasty and dishonest. Silly in its self-defeating hatred and rant ("More money from Britain to support the Israel war machine..."), nasty in its implication that British Jews who give money to Israel put that country before their parents that they were looking forward to military service, and that they would volunteer if there were no conscription. Then gradually they began to fire back questions. "What about Northern Ireland? What about Chile? What about inflation in the West? What about the British Communist Party?" I did my best and found in the course of this discussion that they swallowed all the official lies about Czechoslovakia (but they were only teenagers) and that some of them thought that Russian workers lived better than British or American workers. But others were uncertain. "The present belongs to you but the future belongs to us", said one. I don't know whether they spoke their real thoughts, but it was lively discussion and nobody tried to stop it or censor the translation although it touched on some fairly sensitive subjects. Later my wife and I went off on our own to a new housing development on the outskirts of Moscow. A man mending an old car said his flat was free but could not explain why. He said he thought he was better off than in the west and asked about prices. In every case we asked mostly non-political questions and showed so much interest in living conditions that it was obvious we wanted to see a flat. Nobody invited us in. But nobody refused to talk or objected to what we were doing. Perhaps if we had had more time a door might have opened but foreign residents in Moscow said it was unlikely. Sadly, when a very delightful conversation did invite us we could not make it. I don't know what these encounters prove except that with or without an official guide one can talk to Russians on windy street corners without anything very much happening.

Richard Davy

Divisions that must be closed to avoid civil war in Angola



Dr Neto of MLPA: Back in overall control.

Portugal's imperial disengagement went remarkably easily in Guinea-Bissau and in Mozambique; Angola, the richest of the African territories, is being left out to be a leader propositively. In fact the violent disorders of November have brought the threat of civil war between the separatist movements close to reality; there have also been signs of divisions within the Portuguese military themselves over which movements to support. Angola's major problem is that there is no single nationalist movement that is in a position to take power as Frelimo did in Mozambique. The Organisation of African Unity (and several African leaders) have made considerable efforts to form a common front between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA). They have had little success. All three have stopped fighting with the Portuguese—MPLA and UNITA have agreed to a ceasefire, and FNLA to a cessation of hostilities. All have agreed in principle to take part in a coalition government to prepare for independence. This would also involve other groups, such as members of the Portuguese forces, Angolan civil servants and white politicians. The actual details of power sharing and positions have not yet been worked out and here the proposals run into the divisions between the movements. Portugal is now trying to speed up the process of agreement, spurred on recently by the violent riots in Luanda, Angola's capital. Although there have been allegations of the troubles being caused by agents-provocateurs, ultimately it has been the ill-feelings, particularly those behind MPLA and FNLA, that lie behind them. In fact all the movements have recently set up offices in Luanda and apparently the size of the welcome for UNITA's delegation when it arrived caused misgivings to MPLA supporters. MPLA also claimed that there was an attempt to assassinate some of their leaders; but most aggravating to MPLA supporters was apparently the use of FNLA troops to help the Portuguese forces to restore order.

The divisions among the liberation movement go back long way and are both political and ideological. MPLA, which is firmly Marxist, is led by Dr Augustino Neto, who has substantial intellectual support. It seems to me to have no more understanding of what a newspaper (or an advertisement for that matter) is than the man who not long ago tried to procure the Oxford University Press, for including in the OED pejorative definitions of word Jew, apparently head of what a dictionary is. The two affairs, moreover, seem to me to have a good deal in common. It was impossible to get into the head of the complainant against the dictionary that to record, say, the verb "to Jew" as meaning "to swindle", did not imply that the dictionary's editors or publishers thought that all, or indeed any, Jews were swindlers; their duty was simply to include words which existed, in the meanings given to them. If, as is certainly the case, popular usage employs, or has in the past employed, a word "to Jew"—and "to swindle" for that matter—then a dictionary would be defective if it did not include it, and for my part I would not dream of buying a dictionary which, otherwise sufficiently comprehensive to include such words, excluded them on the ground that they might give offence. And I think that that point is closely analogous to the one that lies at the heart of the advertisement argument. Newspapers commonly publish advertisements on matters of public controversy; obvious examples are party-political advertisements at election time, statements by both sides in a strike or other industrial dispute, and rival bids in a takeover. Sometimes—usually, now I come to think of it—these advertisements are grossly partisan, though masquerading as objective statements of fact; often, I have no doubt, they give serious offence, and in some cases are intended to: A newspaper has a duty to see that nothing in its advertisements contravenes any criminal or civil law (the law makes no distinction between editorial and advertising columns); it has a duty to make quite clear that an advertisement is an advertisement, and not part of the editorial matter; it has a duty to open its advertising space to conflicting opinions; and it has a duty, should the question arise, to make clear its own view of the matter in dispute. (All these duties The Times has consistently fulfilled; nor has it been found wanting in any of them over the present episode.) Yet The Times, it is seriously argued, should have refused the advertisement—should, that is, have imposed censorship on columns which are supposed to be available to all those who will keep within the law and can pay for the space—because it might have the effect of encouraging those who "seek to sow the seeds of racial hatred". So indeed it might; it is difficult to think of anything a strongly committed partisan can say about the Middle East that couldn't sow, in some mind or other, the seeds of hatred against Jews or Arabs. But there is a limit—conveniently set in Britain's case, by the Race Relations Act—to the necessity for newspapers and writers and speakers to go at the speed of the slowest in the crowd, and to guard their words from the possibility of giving offence. The Board of Deputies of British Jews, in their statement, has said that The Times "has performed a disservice to its readers, who expect from it a high standard of journalistic ethics". On the contrary, The Times would have fallen below its high standard, in my opinion, if it had refused the advertisement, just as those newspapers which have refused advertisements, or have insisted on amendments to them, after pressure or threats from members of printing unions, have done a disservice to free speech as well as to themselves. And it is free speech which is at the heart of the argument. There are people who are genuinely unable to feel that strong criticism of themselves, their associates, their causes or beliefs, should be permitted; there are others who think such criticism a kind of moral offence. There are undoubtedly some Jews who feel that Israel should never be attacked in print, and even some who feel that anyone who does so attacks her must be consciously or unconsciously anti-semitic (I have been repeatedly accused of anti-semitism myself, and I have no doubt I will be again after today), and that a newspaper which permits such attacks in its columns is likewise tainted. But the point about free speech is that it has to be upheld for the needy as well as for the nice; indeed, there is a sense in which it is much more important for the nasty to have their say than the nice, for the unpopular view to be heard than the popular. For the battle over freedom of expression is only joined when there is a move to prevent someone having it, and nobody would ever seek to suppress generally acceptable views. The "Committee for Justice in the Middle East", which placed the offending advertisement, is a body of little significance, and if its views are valued generally there would be precious little justice in the Middle East or anywhere else. But its views must be met in open combat, not suppressed by newspapers which find them distasteful or offensive. Within the law, the advertisement columns of The Times are open to all, and I hope will continue to be so. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1974

The lyric quoted by Bernard Levin on page No 26 was from the song The Patriot Game by Dominic Behan, published by Essex Music International.

Korea: Why the North-South deadlock will go on

The Koreans have scarcely yet lived in a world outside the East Asian one. The unified state under the Yi dynasty (1392-1910) ruled an even more compact Confucian society than China's size and diversity would allow; China's superiority was thus readily accepted and the only occasional intruders were the Japanese. The mid-nineteenth century Western confrontation with China and Japan scarcely touched Korea; such modernization as was injected into the country in the last two decades of the century came through Chinese and Japanese channels. And just when a Korean nationalism was shaping up in the last years of the nineteenth century, China's defeat by Japan left Korea open to Japanese domination. From 1910 until the defeat of 1945, Korea was again wedded into an East Asian enclosure. With Japanese rule ended in 1945, Korea's arrested nationalism found the country divided for the purposes of the postwar occupation and thereby precipitated into the cold war. Both North and South Korea still bear the marks of that upbringing. It is difficult to add anything but this unhappy history divides the one half from the other and that a consciousness of unity is very strong. Seen from outside Korea is an unhappy case of arrested development. The long-term serving prisoners reimbursed for the sacrifice. Obviously the country would be better off united. But the consciousness of Korean responsibility for their own future has not yet taken full hold. Certainly if the country could be peacefully unified by some political compromise the Americans, the Russians and probably the Chinese would all accept it, but the encouragement all three countries have given has been nullified by intransigence. What, then are the future possibilities?

No allegiance to the state

The Christian church Roman Catholic and Protestant have lately been prominent. Missionaries were the westers most easily intruded in Korea at the end of the 19th century and they were agents of modernization as it were in China at that period. The result is that Roman Catholic and Protestant churches developed indigenously as indigenous power bases, though much support from abroad. They can play part because they are by institutions inherited into society owing no allegiance directly to the all-powerful state; even the Korean may be inhibited in such a text. Yet the willingness to accept authority and the still strong anti-communist posture will make for any political promise with the north. If Americans did withdraw a few years' time, concluding the future state of Korea, the nationalists both halves of the country would be very much undermined. Against this must be set economic growth of the two decades which has brought South Korea fully into the Asian prosperity sphere. It also be added that in the text of East Asian modernization, the West has a pull being seen as more advanced technologically and culturally than the communist alternatives. The Chinese are glad to let heter relations with the Americans now for the same reason.

US fear of invasion

We must start again by measuring each side against the basic East Asian demands of nationalist fulfilment and total independence of outside power. For the nationalists both halves of the country may be satisfied by their leaders. For the independence, the communist North has it. The hindsight of scholarship now inclines to the view that Kim Il-sung was independent of the Russians and the Chinese from the beginning of his rule; certainly the Soviet dispute gave him any opportunity he needed to cut remaining ties while staying a little closer to China as history and preference would dictate. The Americans would like to leave South Korea but fear they cannot. President Park urges them to stop, frightening them with stories of imminent invasion from the north. Thus no amount of stout nationalist assertion to prove that President Park is no puppet of the Americans (which he is not) can console the South Koreans that they enjoy the same independence of outside powers as their northern neighbours. Theo there is the doctrine which Mr Kim Il-sung so extravagantly proclaims, as readily to a foreign audience as to his own people. Not to be outdone by the sage in Peking he now calls it "Kimilism" to emphasize the national fervour. What size the national fervour? What a catch that in the south. The answer is that anti-communism has in Seoul been

Richard H... Previous articles in this section appeared on December 2, 1974 and 16.

The Times Diary

Why the BBC must tell us all

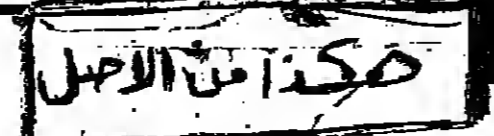
It is seldom that I find myself lining up alongside Mary Whitehouse, the honorary secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. Indeed I do not think I have ever happened before. My views on what does and what does not make good and acceptable broadcasting are generally precisely the opposite of hers. All the same, I have to support wholeheartedly her campaign to get the BBC to tell the public, on whose financial support they depend, how much money they spend on individual programmes. Mrs Whitehouse's assertion that £300,000 was spent on Casa Nova and £150,000 on Leeds United has been neither substantiated nor denied by the corporation, who say it would be against their policy to do so. I am not interested in the merits or otherwise of the two programmes, neither of which I saw. From reading about the controversy over Leeds United it seems to me that objections to it were purely political, and I probably should not have supported them. If the objections to Casa Nova were based on prudence, I should have opposed them, too. The professionals in the BBC must be given a large measure of freedom to decide how their money is spent, even if in some cases it means spending a disproportionately large amount on something which will have minority appeal. The important issue is that of public accountability. A body which gets all its funds from the public ought to be obliged to answer any question from anyone about how the money is spent. I put the point to a BBC spokesman who appeared to belong to that school of communication which believes that if you say something firmly and often enough it will be believed, even if it is patently ridiculous. "We believe in public accountability," he said repeatedly, reeling off a list of Government and other bodies to which the BBC had opened their books and their souls. They had even allowed themselves to be gone over by a firm of management consultants, who had pronounced themselves pleased with their efficiency. At the phrase public accountability, however, he accounted himself obliged to tell the public. If the BBC really believed in it, they would give Mrs Whitehouse and me and anyone the information we wanted. I met the same obfuscation when I inquired about another complaint by Mrs Whitehouse, that an airfield had been hired to a company whose name was in lights for a Christmas spectacular. A different spokesman (a spokesman) dealt with this one, but she belonged to the same school of heavy-handed public relations. It was quite wrong, she maintained, to say that the airfield had been "hired". It was the RAF airfield at Wittering and the BBC had merely been given "a permission to use it". Did this then mean, as she said, that no fee was involved? That seemed to be the only situation in which the word "hire" (payment by contract for use of something) would be inappropriate. No, it did not mean that at all, said the woman. She would neither confirm or deny that a fee had been charged. (For the benefit of those unused to dealing with slippery publicists, that means there certainly was a fee, in which case Mrs Whitehouse's use of the word "hire" was justified.) Since no question of national security is involved, the BBC's refusal to tell us how it spends our money means that they think they have something to hide, and that they do not consider ordinary people fit to be entrusted with their sensitive secrets. All we are required to do is keep shelling out ever increasing sums of cash. It will not do.

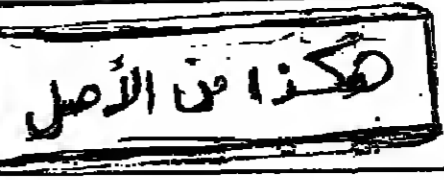
The subject of Ireland. MacBride, whose father was executed by the British military and whose mother was also a leader in the independence movement, has been imprisoned several times in the cause of Irish independence in his youth. On the first occasion he was only 14. Yesterday, however, he insisted he had nothing to say about Ireland. One especially well-judged and mischievous suggestion from a reporter was that the IRA should put their case to the United Nations General Assembly, like Yasser Arafat. MacBride, who was briefly the IRA's chief of staff in the relatively tranquil 1930s, declined to comment. Cagey Sao MacBride, in London on his way back to New York from receiving the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, gave a press conference at the offices of Amnesty International yesterday. Most of the conversation concerned Namibia (MacBride has just been nominated for a second term as the United Nations Commissioner for the area) and the sudden liberalization of political statements in southern Africa. MacBride remarked sourly that the white politicians seemed more anxious to communicate with the rest of the world than with their own police. There had, he alleged, as yet been no amelioration of torture and prison conditions in the countries concerned. The Irish journalists present did their best to draw him on

the subject of Ireland. MacBride, whose father was executed by the British military and whose mother was also a leader in the independence movement, has been imprisoned several times in the cause of Irish independence in his youth. On the first occasion he was only 14. Yesterday, however, he insisted he had nothing to say about Ireland. One especially well-judged and mischievous suggestion from a reporter was that the IRA should put their case to the United Nations General Assembly, like Yasser Arafat. MacBride, who was briefly the IRA's chief of staff in the relatively tranquil 1930s, declined to comment. Bike boom Spokesmen (pardoning the pun) for the bicycle are rushing to its defence following my recent item asking what happened to the cycle boom. First to the telephone was Lord Avebury, a Liberal peer, who assured me that he was constantly to be seen in the saddle, as was his party colleague John Pardon and his fellow peer Lord Halsam. Then came a rather testy letter from a sales director of a leading cycle manufacturer. "Nothing has happened to the cycle boom", he fumed, adding for good measure that toy note, which simply reported that no-



had been progressing nicely since 1964, when his company launched a high fashion unisex machine. Things would be even better if some streets in Central London were allotted solely to bicycles at the weekend. The Director of the British Cycling Bureau, Nicholas Cole, weighed in with a further letter. "It is not so much what happened to the bicycle boom", he wrote, "but when are we going to enjoy a real bicycle boom? With petrol at 65p and rising it could well be 1975." Promises, promises. Transported My description last month of a railway sleeping car in which I travelled to Thailand, with curtained bunks ranged on either side of a central corridor, has inspired a charming reminiscence from David Walker of Kensington. He says they sound like the carriages used in the United States in the early thirties. He and a friend were travelling from New York to Chicago. At dinner they abared a table with another man and an attractive girl. Walker left the table first and his friend returned some time later chatting to the girl. At the point of sleep, he was aware of his friend climbing from the upper bunk in his dressing gown and padding down the corridor. Next morning the attendant, hearing he could not get a response from the upper bunk. The attendant asked Walker if he had seen the missing man going towards the coach some hours earlier. "Too bad", said the attendant. "We dropped that coach Ohio." Lord O Lord Olivier's illness is likely to keep him in hospital for Christmas. He is reported to be in good spirits, although he has now been in the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, for some seven weeks suffering from muscular inflammation. He is spending much of time studying the libretto types of Verdi's Macbeth, which he has been invited to direct at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 1976. Hardy had yesterday's Diary the streets, with its criticism of broadcaster for talking at children in a school situation. I then Richard Baker repeated offence in the BBC's Start Week. He asked Ronnie Corbett how much he ad libbed "in pantomime situation". The situation is getting out of hand.





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

M CHIRAC'S BRILLIANT COUP

The sudden election of M Jacques Chirac as secretary-general of the Gaullist Party on Saturday morning has stretched the resources of France's political vocabulary. It is certainly a "coup de théâtre". But was it also the "coup de force" deployed by M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, or even the "coup d'état" gleefully noted by the opposition leader, M François Mitterrand? As for the resignation of M Alexandre Sanguinetti to make way for M Chirac, it was, according to M Chaban-Delmas, a "pantalonade", since only the day before M Sanguinetti had been heard saying he intended to stay on.

M Chirac certainly succeeded in surprising his opponents by surprise. If *Le Monde* is to be believed, he first broached the idea of taking over the party leadership at a dinner with the "barons" of Gaullism—M Dohé, Couve de Murville, Chaban-Delmas, Messmer, Frey and Guichard—on Thursday night. The "barons" made it clear that they were against the idea, but were apparently under the impression that in any case it would not be put forward before February. On Friday, when telegrams were sent out announcing a meeting of the Central Committee at 8.30 the following morning, most of its hundred-odd members had no idea what the purpose of the meeting was to be.

Why then did M Chirac's

nomination go through by 57 votes to 27, against the opposition of the historic leaders of the party? Partly no doubt because the opposition had not been given any chance to find a credible alternative. The status quo could not be prolonged because M Sanguinetti was no longer prepared to be the whipping-boy of party malcontents. His clumsy attempts to defend a government with which he himself was temperamentally never in sympathy had exhausted the credit he once enjoyed in the party as a battle-scarred Gaullist war horse.

M Jacques Legendre, an assistant secretary-general, put himself forward as a compromise candidate but this was brushed aside by M Chirac. Forced to choose between the prime minister and this unknown figure, the majority understandably chose the former. Not to do so would have been to precipitate a complete rupture between party and government, leading possibly to a vote of censure in the National Assembly and thus to a general election which the party is clearly in no condition to fight.

M Chirac's election may thus have postponed a split, but it can hardly have averted it. Many influential Gaullists already found the party's subordination to a predominantly non-Gaullist government a grievous humiliation. For these the sight of the party machine in the hands of the head of that government—a

State assistance in cathedral upkeep

From the Treasurer of Wells Cathedral

Sir, In your admirable leading article (December 11) you point perceptively to the case for regular state aid for the upkeep of cathedrals and other ecclesiastical monuments. Wells Cathedral is one of those few not yet having begun major repair or restoration work. Nor has there in the past been the need for a major appeal.

Most readers will know of the unique architectural and artistic beauty of Wells and be aware, from previous correspondence and elsewhere, of the urgent need of preservation which place a heavy burden of responsibility on the Dean and Chapter.

We believe we epitomize the position you describe. Set in a tiny city, in a vastly rural area, we nevertheless attract thousands of visitors annually, many from overseas. For every reason we must maintain the balance between preserving our irreplaceably renowned and heavy and being a living sign of twentieth-century Christianity.

The thought of another major appeal cannot be appealing! Would that the case for some regular state aid be repeated and taken up, firmly and sympathetically.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. BIRBECK,
Wells, Somerset,
December 11.

Breaking the Ulster stalemate

From Mr Bruce Anderson

Sir, The letter on Northern Ireland from six Labour MPs (December 13) contains a fundamental misconception which vitiates its arguments. "It is about as useful to say that the people of Ireland must decide their own future" as it would be to say that the people of Cyprus or the people of the Indian Empire must decide their own future: there are two peoples in Ireland, quite as distinct as the Greek and the Turkish, and any solution which ignores this would, if put into effect, lead to civil war. Ulster Unionism is not a matter of the idiosyncrasies of Messrs Paisley, Craig, and West; it is 900,000 people—a two-thirds majority of the population of the six counties of Northern Ireland.

Three axioms must underlie government policy on Ulster. Whereas continuation of the present impasse is impossible, troop withdrawal is unthinkable. There is no danger of civil war as long as British troops remain in Ulster: if they were withdrawn, there is no way in which civil war could be avoided. Secondly, no recrudescence of the evils of the Stormont system—which have in fact been repeated—must be permitted. And thirdly, there is no necessary connexion between the perfectly justifiable demands of the Civil Rights campaign and Irish nationalism. Given the history of Northern Ireland, it was inevitable that the latter, but unless one is a blood-and-soil nationalist in the tradition of Mussolini, Hitler, and the Provisional IRA, then one cannot deny the Protestants of Ulster their right to self-determination—though one can, and should, insist, as the price of an absolute guarantee of continued British support, that they conduct their political affairs in an acceptable manner.

It is of course easier to say what cannot be done in Ulster than it is to suggest viable positive measures. There remain the problems of defeating the Provisionals, who will always be independent and irreconcilable of securing the acquiescence of the Catholics to the future arrangements for Ulster, and of securing Protestant acceptance of a quasi-Sunningdale settlement which alone will make such acquiescence possible. And this is quite apart from the difficulty of satisfying British public opinion that there is only one possible responsible policy, and that the losses and sufferings which that policy will entail are a cruel necessity. In the past few months the Northern Ireland Office has been rather inactive; what is needed is a major political initiative involving all sections of opinion in Ireland, and in which the British Government must forcefully define its objectives. The very fact that the question of troop withdrawal appears to be on the agenda is damaging: it raises the Provisionals' morale, increases Protestant insecurity and therefore support for paramilitary actions, and serves generally to convince all sections of Irish opinion that the British are merely bewildered, temporary, and involuntary participants in events, and that therefore the only relevant

Lending toll on library books

From Mr Basil Bunting

Sir, Let me protest against the thoughtless proposals to pay authors some kind of toll on books borrowed from libraries. They are bound to cripple literature.

On the face of them it must be evident that they would increase the rewards of best-seller writers without materially improving the pittance of serious writers. Learned, necessary books, books of marked originality are seldom borrowed, and a few pence a year, less income tax, would hardly make it more attractive to compose them.

But in a system which leaves authors at the mercy of publishers it will not be long before royalties and advances are diminished by as much as the publisher expects the toll to bring. Then publishers, indeed, may pay their shareholders better dividends, but even the best-seller writers will be no better off and the serious writers even worse off than now.

Besides, any lending toll, whether paid by readers or ratepayers, or put of taxes, must be very expensive to collect and distribute, and the cost must be borne by the funds the country grudges already for art or education. Either the libraries must lose part of their keep or the arts councils some of what they might hope for otherwise. In short, however public accountancy might contrive to disguise it, the toll would be in effect a tax on knowledge or a tax on art or both.

To tax readers or writers for the privilege of publishing and particularly to tax serious readers and serious writers for the benefit of those who publish "what the public wants" is a proposal only publishers and dupes can support. It cannot fall to injure men whose work is indispensable in a civilized land, and worse paid than that of a labourer.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL BUNTING,
Shadfield,
Wylam,
Northumberland,
December 11.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY STRENGTHENS IN PORTUGAL

The major Portuguese political parties have now all had their party conferences before the run-up to the elections for the constituent assembly in March. The horizon is not quite as red as it was predicted it would be when General Spínola's replacement by General Gomes seemed to put the country into the hands of the militant left. The challenge of the social militants within the socialist Party led by Dr Mário Soares was beaten back at the congress just concluded, and the moderate leaders were confirmed in control. Though the Socialist Party is Marxist in its inspiration and theoretically committed to the supersession of capitalism by private enterprise as is the Irish Labour Party—it is for the present wedded to gradualist democracy and it vehemently opposes communist ambitions and tactics.

The Communist Party, however, while attacking such "opportunities" by its socialist opponents, so found it politic at its own congress some weeks ago to avoid extremism (indeed it decries socialism as extremism), to play the dictatorship of the proletariat and to make clear that if gained power it would not veer away small enterprise at stroke. There is good reason to be cautious by both socialists and communists. The election must

be won in the countryside at least as much as in the industrial areas, and either can be sure of agrarian support.

The communists, for instance, working hard to create an agricultural labourers' union which they could control, have found that the farm workers want the big estates broken up to provide them with small peasant holdings, not jobs in state-run collectives. The peasantry is just as reactionary about the land it has. It is here that the non-Marxist left wing party, the Popular Democrats, may find its strength, balancing the Marxists' grip on local government by a useful understanding with the Church. While big business is everybody's Aunt Sally, Portugal is still in many ways a land of peasants and petty bourgeois for whom the authoritarian Marxist state has decreasing appeal as events unfold.

Another sign of communist doubts of a sweeping victory in March (there are suggestions that they will not garner more than 15 per cent of the vote despite their two thousand organizers financed, so their opponents allege, by the Russians) is the announced intention of the Portuguese Democratic Movement to contest the election. This party is the ad hoc coalition of all opposition groupings which was allowed to campaign at election time under the Caetano regime. It should therefore now be wound up, as most socialists and liberals have left it. But the communists are still running it and apparently hope that its moderate image may decoy votes away from their indignant opponents.

The centre party, or parties, can now hardly hold meetings without police protection and recently had their Porto headquarters burned down. The Centreists provide a useful bogey for the other parties—a sort of living testimony to the possibility of counter-coups which all revolutionaries regard as natural and necessary. But they can hope for few seats in the assembly. This is likely to be divided, perhaps in fairly equal measure, between the Communists, Socialists and Popular Democrats. In theory they will then draw up a constitution for election in October 1976. But the communists are now insisting that seats must be reserved for the Armed Forces Movement as such—a body in whose leadership of about two hundred the communists exert (as in the Portuguese Democratic Movement) considerable leverage. Communist tactics hardly suggest that "the revolution" is yet comfortably under party management. The Socialist Congress has shown that the moderate left has real strength.

From Mr Michael Hooker

Sir, Since I have been professionally involved in eight historic cathedral appeals, perhaps I may be allowed to answer Mr Carpenter Turner's accusation in your issue of December 14.

I can see nothing "dishonest" in linking the conservation of the stained glass and fabric with the needs of the musical foundation—so long as the promotional literature makes it clear how contributions will be spent. Naturally, press reports tend to emphasize the fabric and, in the case of Canterbury, the matchless glass. No doubt the writers conclude that these are the aspects of particular interest to readers.

From my own experience, I would confess that judgment but I have no evidence that any contributors with cathedrals to become lifelike monuments, which would surely be a disaster if their distinctive musical tradition and their ministry of welcome were abandoned because of lack of funds.

Yours, etc,
MICHAEL HOOKER,
Managing Director,
Church of England Trustees Ltd,
Fund Raising Consultants to
Educational and other Charities
Campaign Direction,
Station House,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire,
December 16.

From the Reverend Robert Warren

Sir, The spiritual dimension has been significantly missing from the correspondence about clergy stipends.

In our own church (which is far from unique) giving has increased in the last two years from £3,500 to £3,800. Clergy stipend giving has risen from £400 to £4,600 during the same period; though congregations have increased by less than 20 per cent. We have had no "stewardship campaign", and only regular church-goers have been given spiritual factors (prayer, faith, love, etc.) alone explain this situation, and surely the Church Commissioner's contribution to the stipend. My own Parochial Church Council has abolished the Easter offering as a dishonest practice since it is no sense a gift (as many who give are effectively coerced) but a way can and must be found to encourage, not stifle, the giving of the laity.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WARREN,
18 Hallamgate Road,
Sheffield 10.

From Miss Enid Lakeman

Sir, Anthony Wigram's article (December 6) is very welcome, especially for its valuable analysis showing the political characteristics of 17 states. This should help to put an end to ill-founded generalizations such as that proportional electoral systems produce unstable governments.

Unfortunately, the article itself contains an extraordinary misstatement: that the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies is not "designed to introduce the principle of proportionality". If Mr Wigram means that the electoral law does not lay down in so many words, as the Continental party list systems do, that each party shall obtain seats in proportion to its votes, that is true, but the effect of the system is just that. STV gives proportional representation to the parties with exactly the same accuracy as a list system, provided the number of members elected from a constituency is the same.

The great difference is that STV also gives, with the same degree of accuracy, proportional representation to any other important groups that may exist—left-wing and right-wing, Spix and ETC, for the present party leadership and for a change, etc. Each MP owes his seat to the free choice of his constituents, who, in the next election, can either show their confidence in him by giving him their first preference or, as the case may be, replace him by some other man or woman of the same party. That is a point in which a list system like the German one totally fails.

Yours faithfully,
ENID LAKEMAN, Director,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancel Street,
Southwark, SE1.

From Mr P. Mathias

Sir, No one doubts your newspaper's formal right to publish advertisements which are legal and profitable. For you defend the appearance of the advertisement financed by a "Committee for Justice in the Middle East" (*The Times*, December 11) in a leader about freedom (December 12). There may be some who are morally opposed to the advertisement, but the advertisement is not yours. The point is simple—such advertisements demean *The Times*; they diminish its stature and threaten its reputation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MATHIAS,
St Louis College,
Oxford,
December 12.

From Mr D. A. Franklin

Sir, Out of your own mouths ye are condemning yourselves. On Saturday that you have refused a second insertion of the advertisement "Shouldn't Britain Come First?" shows exactly the true nature of that advertisement—and also reveals the shoddiness of your attempt to cover the advertisement. If the advertisement is improper now, it was improper before, and it is an insult to the intelligence of your readers to try to pretend that you could not forecast the results of displaying it or that somehow it was acceptable the first time but unacceptable later. You cannot honourably defend the charge that in publishing it you have done other than provide publicity for an incitement to racial hatred; if it is not incitement to identify a section of British citizenry and to insinuate—if that is not too weak a word—that they are somehow selling Britain short, then what is?

The fact that the insinuations are a lie is neither here nor there—they have the respectability of a platform

From Mr Y. E. Canavan

Sir, Thank you for the courage you have shown in publishing the Justice for Palestine advertisement. We know only too well how difficult it is to get our point of view across, and can imagine the courage it must have taken, against all the usual pressures, to insert this advertisement.

I am afraid that as long as the press and media in this country in particular, and the West in general, continue to cover the Middle East situation in such a one-sided manner, these expensive advertisements will have to remind the British public that there are two sides to every problem.

Thanking you once again, I am,
Yours sincerely,
Y. E. CANAVAN,
174 Northampton Road,
Croydon, Surrey,
December 12.

From the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, "Planning delay" (leading article, December 6) is a fine example of a deceptively simple case quoted in your correspondence columns as evidence of planning delays are usually much more complex than they seem. In major developments, a period of one or even two years' delay may not be too long when the social, economic and environmental consequences have to be understood and the local, regional and perhaps even national impact assessed. As a democratic nation we require rights of appeal and a full opportunity for citizens and affected bodies to be consulted; as a cultured nation we demand that our developments should be of good quality, should fit sympathetically into their environment and should not damage our architectural heritage. All these processes take time. The true delays that do occur are due to detailed political involve-

ment, shortages of planning staff, shortages of staff for processing appeals, and cumbersome procedures. Delay for those reasons must not be confused with the statutory and administrative processes required to deal with each application equitably and constructively in the interests of the community, which is what local politicians, planners and their colleagues in local government and government are striving to achieve.

We are all looking forward to the Dobry Report, but we must not misunderstand what it is going to achieve. The Institute hopes that it will lead to the speeding up of administrative and political procedures but will not diminish the time and effort spent in achieving quality control in the environment by development control means.

Yours sincerely,
SYLVIA LAW, President,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
December 12.

BED AND BREAKFAST HOUSING

When a family has nowhere to go and their housing authority cannot accommodate them even in a hostel or a house waiting to be demolished, the alternatives for the children to be taken to care for the family to be taken temporarily into a cheap bed and breakfast accommodation, published yesterday, shows councils are having recourse more and more often to the second alternative. A family of four or five may be put in one small room with very unsatisfactory cooking and sanitary facilities, and may have to stay there for months on end, at considerable expense to the ratepayers. Shelter estimates that the out-of-pocket cost of using people in this way will be about £4.5m this year, with the cost part of it falling on the council. It seems clear, however, that there is usually more to be done for such an arrangement than for breaking a family up only because of the family's financial interests but also because the cost of keeping children in care may be higher still.

The report describes the tribulations that people may suffer from reduced by necessity to a few beds and breakfasts. In big cities something of a scandal has arisen apart from the stresses introduced by the change from ancient to semi-permanent cupboards. Understaffed fire departments are still very far from ensuring that every hotel complies even approximately with the Fire Precautions Acts. Space and sanitary standards often fall

short of those laid down in the Housing Acts. Landlords may impose unreasonable restrictions or resort to harassment and sometimes do very comfortably out of their uncontrolled rents. Councils have limited powers to ensure that standards are kept up (and often make too little effort to do so for this purpose being difficult to find).

The chief reason why the number of people living in this way has increased so greatly in the past couple of years is the country's failure to build enough houses. The latest figures, for October, do not indicate that recovery will be rapid. But much of the blame must be taken by the Rent Act of 1974, which extended to furnished accommodation the same controls which had already contributed to the virtual disappearance of the unfurnished rental market.

The Shelter report only partially avoids the philosophy of treating symptoms which lay behind the Act. Clearly the pursuit of the exploiter has reached the point where no solution is to be found in heaping the same controls on the bed and breakfast trade. Apart from anything else, no family of five would want a lifetime's security in one room. The report applies itself to the underlying problem of general shortage and proposes, first, the requisitioning of empty property, and second, a body to repair short-life housing, take over hotels catering exclusively for the homeless, and lease rooms on a short-term basis to councils.

As for requisitioning, it is a desperate resort which would be highly unpopular and, if the safeguards were to be adequate, almost as unwieldy as the compulsory purchase procedures whose delays constitute Shelter's chief ground for making the proposal. The new Housing Emergency Office seems to derive chiefly from a mistrust of housing departments' capacity to do their own jobs. It is often true that councils do not make the fullest use of housing waiting for demolition or rebuilding, and are not well adapted to meeting short-term needs in general, but the disadvantages of a whole new bureaucracy are at first sight formidable.

On all sides in this field the problem of providing accommodation is closely related to the problem of regaining possession. Councils would be readier to cooperate with squatters' groups if they could be sure that when the house is needed they will be able to regain possession (their doubts will have been reinforced by a recent court case). Landlords would be prepared to open up their empty rooms if only they could be sure of reclaiming them at some foreseeable moment. The problem affects not only the homeless, but every newly married couple saving up for a house, and many workers who need to be mobile. A law to make possible a properly safeguarded terminable lease would make available more dwellings overnight than years of work with bricks and mortar.

Hambone chorus

From Mr Lionel Abel-Smith

Sir, At my preparatory school in the 30's my version was as follows:—O, Lemina, look at your Uncle Jim; he's in the duck pond learning how to swim.

First he does the backstroke, then he does the side; now he's under the water swimming against the tide.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ABEL-SMITH,
Oxford,
December 12.

Lost shop for engineers

From Mr J. D. Sampson

Sir, In his letter today (December 13) Mr Denis Sweeney has described

the effect of the closed shop on the engineering profession, and it would be well for a country which depends for its survival on its technological expertise to take note of the situation to which he calls attention.

It is unfortunate that in Britain the distinction between the professional engineer who holds a degree or equivalent qualification and the technician or craftsman is blurred or non-existent in the public mind. Professional engineers themselves, however, have always been conscious of the vital role they play and their professional obligations both to their employers and to the public. As a result, few have wished to join the grade unions representing the majority of employees in the engineering industry. The public should be alarmed that a combination of aggressive unionism, demo-

ralized employers and shortly, if the Government has its way, a new law, will compel many members of the country's most vital profession, under threat of "fair" dismissal, and against their will, to join one of the largest and most militant trade unions.

Our technical rivals in Europe and elsewhere hold their engineering professions in the highest esteem with the result that it is the ambition of their most brilliant youngsters to join them. Which country has the right idea?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. SAMPSON, General Secretary,
The United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers,
West Hill House,
West Hoveley,
Surrey,
December 13.

Britain and the Middle East

in *The Times* to support them, and you have done a terrible disservice to the Jewish community of this country and to everyone who has signed to the dustbin, a major obstacle to real and acceptable power-sharing has been removed. If Mr Rees could only bring himself to demand talks, now, on the subject of security between the parties in Northern Ireland, we might even see some progress towards at least a temporary peace.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR N. COWDY,
40 Colville Terrace, W11.

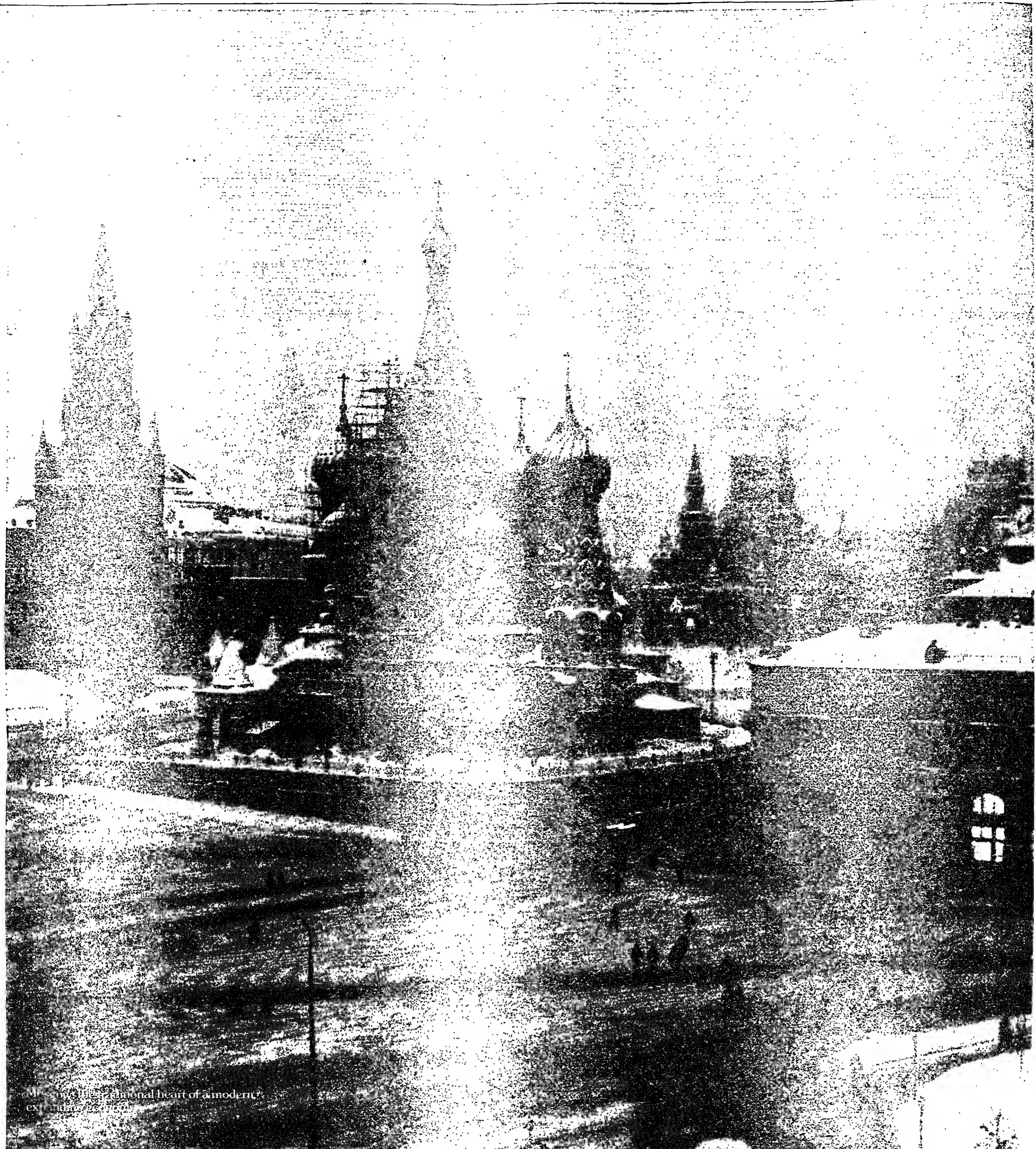
Saturday, Sunday, Monday

From Signor Franco Zeffirelli

Sir, I have no wish to take part in the wretched contribution to the London comedy that Eduardo De Filippo has written with the collaboration of your Rome correspondent, though it is a mystery to me that such a piece has found space on the front page of your paper. It doesn't add anything to the prestige of *The Times*, I am afraid.

What I feel I have to clarify to your readers, however, is the wretched contribution I received from the actors of the American production of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. It was a lovely company, one of the best I've ever worked with, and hopes in this work as their English colleagues. They fought like brave soldiers for the play but unfortunately their efforts were in vain, simply because (though the New York production was absolutely identical to the London one) English seem to appreciate De Filippo's kind of theatre and America does not.

It often happens, and vice versa, and De Filippo should know it. He has enough ego and experience to have learned by now how to face the unfortunate moments of life with a more sportsmanlike grace. Yours, etc,
FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI,
Via Appia Pignatelli 448,
Rome, Italy.



If you want to know where to expand overseas, look where Barclays Bank International are opening new offices.

The Soviet Union is opening up to foreign industrialists.

There are now excellent opportunities for internationally minded companies, and this is why Barclays Bank International have set up in Moscow in partnership with Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings) Ltd, and Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, to form a new company: Barclays Tozer Limited. This is the first British financial institution to get representation in the Soviet Union.

In the next few years Soviet require-

ments in consumer goods are likely to double. With a population exceeding 250 million citizens, spread over the world's largest country, the potential is enormous. And as you can imagine, selling there involves a special kind of knowledge.

With our partners, we in Barclays Bank International have this knowledge and can help you in a number of ways. We have dealt extensively with the major Comecon banks and with the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank. We have established a good relationship with

many of the people you would need to know. And we have unravelled the intricate regulations that concern imports and exports.

If you would like to know more about trading with the Soviet Union, get in touch with the East European Desk of our International Division at 163 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP. (Telephone: 01-283 8989.)



More offices in more countries than any other bank.

Stock Exchange Prices Strong rise in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. \$ Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7. \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

City Offices Hampton & Son 01-256 7831

Herring Daw Chartered Surveyors 29/28 Southwell Street London W2K 2DL Telephone 01-734 8155

Main table of stock exchange prices with columns for company names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for Commercial and Industrial, Commonwealth and Foreign, Local Authorities, Foreign Stocks, Dollar Stocks, Banks and Discounts, Breweries and Distillers, and various trusts.

PLANNING

LOCAL OR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Main Co-op board unaware of CIS decision to control Oldham Estate

Maurice Corina, assistant editor, reports on the full board of directors of Co-operative Wholesale Society, which owns the £720m Oldham Estate... The decision to take control of the estate was made by the CIS, of which the Co-op board was unaware.

Cannon Street write-down

Shareholders in Cannon Street Investment, which owned a secondary bank Cannon Street Acceptances... The company has written down its assets significantly.

NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER. CAPACITY INCREASE OF NATURAL GAS COMPRESSOR AND PROCESSING STATIONS (TENDER EBM 71). The Société Tunisienne de l'Electricité et du Gaz (S.T.E.G.) is about to launch an international call for tender...

MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS LIMITED. At the sixty third Annual General Meeting of Majedie Investments Limited held in London yesterday, the Chairman, Mr. T. B. Barlow referred to his review of the Report and Accounts and said that the company had a successful year...

All-industry output index shows third monthly fall

By Melvyn Westlake. Output in many of Britain's key industries is now unmistakably shown to be either stagnant or falling. The accumulating evidence of depressed economic activity is reinforced by figures for industrial production, published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office... The official all-industries output index showed the third consecutive monthly fall in October, in stand at 107.9, compared with 108.1 in September.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

Table showing industrial output figures for various months from 1972 to 1974. Columns include All Industries, Mfg Total, and 1974 Q1-Q4.

day week many companies were making deliveries out of their stock of finished products and this led to some overstatement of actual output, perhaps by about 1 per cent in the first quarter of the year... However, stocks are now being rebuilt and the consequent understatement of output in the third quarter is also thought to have been about 1 per cent.

TI cash bid for Midland Aluminium

By Adrienne Gleeson. Tube Investments yesterday announced a £5.4m cash bid for Midland Aluminium, the Wolverhampton-based manufacturer of aluminium housewares and 'Glow-Worm' gas heating appliances... This values Midland Aluminium's share at 38p, against 18p just ahead of the announcement.

Tenneco boosts stake in Albright

By Anthony Rowley. Tenneco International, the American energy production and transmission group, is raising its equity stake in Albright & Wilson, one of the leading United Kingdom chemical producers, from 10 per cent to just under 50 per cent, it disclosed yesterday... This will be achieved by Tenneco converting into ordinary shares of A & W most of the £17.5m of convertible loan stock which the American group subscribed to Albright in 1971.

Sterling improves on fresh demand

Sterling yesterday continued the sharp recovery on the foreign exchanges that began on Friday. Dealers reported a 'quite good' demand for the pound, and it strengthened in most of the big financial centres... The pound's 'effective depreciation' rate against 10 key currencies (compared with three years ago) improved from 21.6 per cent on Friday, to 21.1 per cent.

Army & Navy site funding

International Caledonian Assets, an associate company of Sir Hugh Fraser's Scottish Universal Investments group and Amalgamated Investment & Property yesterday announced a £44m funding for the joint development of the Army & Navy Stores site in Victoria Street, London... The financing arrangements, which take the form of sale-and-leaseback are believed to involve only one major institution.

US-French gold deal could affect IMF work

From Frank Vogl, Washington, Dec 16. A senior United States Treasury official said in Washington that the agreement between the French and United States Presidents that it would be appropriate for any government which wished to do so to adopt current market prices as the basis of valuation for its gold holdings, could have wide-ranging implications for the International Monetary Fund's current work on monetary reform... But a detailed explanation of just what President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing had decided on gold could be given only when Mr William Simon, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr Jack Bennett, his deputy for monetary affairs, had returned from Martinique.

Ford prices up by 8.8pc

The prices of Ford cars, trucks and tractors are going up by an average of 8.8 per cent from midnight tonight. This is the fourth price increase in a year and follows a similar move by British Leyland four days ago... Vauxhall are expected to increase their prices before the end of the month and Chrysler to complete the round early in the new year.

Reliant to cut production

The Midlands-based Reliant motor company is to cut production of its top-selling Scimitar GTE sports car. The company began talks with union officials yesterday on methods for achieving the reduction, including work-sharing and voluntary redundancies... Reliant has been making about 50 Scimitars a week. A spokesman said that waiting lists had almost disappeared.

How the markets moved

Table showing market movements for various currencies and commodities. Includes Rises, Falls, and Commodities sections.

THE POUND

Table showing exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, S. Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, US, and Yugoslavia.

30,000 laid off at VW plants this week will be trebled next month

By David Blake. Car plants in Europe, America and Australia yesterday announced short-time work and layoffs as the industry's world slump grew deeper... In the most striking development Volkswagen laid off 30,000 of its total work force of 110,000 until the end of this week and announced layoffs in the new year which mean production will not get back to normal until mid-January... The company in best shape seems to be Ford, with sales only 18 per cent down compared with 29 per cent for General Motors and 38 per cent for Chrysler.

Short-time for 3,000 likely at Lucas

By Clifford Webb. Short-time working for some 3,000 Lucas group employees in its Birmingham factories will be announced immediately after the Christmas holidays, according to well-informed union sources last night... Mr Bernard Scott, chairman of Lucas, said: 'I am not prepared to give details at present but I would emphasize that the short-time working now under consideration is a very small proportion of our 70,000-strong payroll.'

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EEC draft outlines bankruptcy law changes

Far-reaching implications of the draft EEC Convention on bankruptcy and insolvency are highlighted in a consultative document prepared by a Government-sponsored committee, published today... If the existing EEC proposals are adopted, the rights of workers in a winding-up could be radically affected. Company directors could lose the advantage of limited liability in certain circumstances... Foreign courts would also be empowered to declare individuals in Britain bankrupt and to administer the bankruptcy under their own law.

Rough diamonds will cost more

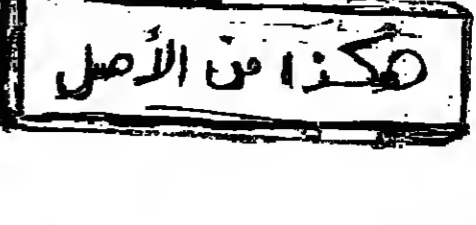
De Beers Central Selling Organisation is increasing the price of rough gem diamonds by an overall 1.55 per cent on January 13. Emphasis will be on the smaller stones, generally below two carats, where diamonds with certain qualities will have their prices raised by up to 10 per cent... De Beers shares closed 3p easier at 155p before the announcement.

The British Bank of the Middle East

Increase in capital. The British Bank of the Middle East announces that its authorised capital has been increased to £15 million by the creation of 10 million new shares of £1 each. All 10 million new shares have been allotted for cash, at par, to the parent company, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The British Bank of the Middle East

Advertisement for The British Bank of the Middle East, including contact information for the Head Office at 20 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7AY, and a list of branches in North Africa, Near and Middle East, India, and Switzerland.



French drug groups sued by Wellcome for breach of patents

By Malcolm Brown
 One of Britain's leading drug groups is suing two French companies for alleged patent infringements.
 The Wellcome Foundation confirmed yesterday that it had started legal proceedings against Laboratoires Reading and Centre de Recherche Biologique Viabac.
 Wellcome alleges infringement of the group's French patent on trimethoprim, a drug widely used medically and veterinarily for anti-bacterial purposes.
 Wellcome took out a process patent on the drug in France in 1958. This runs until 1978. The

group said yesterday that the French companies were putting the drug to veterinary use.
 Trimethoprim was at the centre of separate but significant legal proceedings in Britain earlier this year when Wellcome applied for and was granted a four-year extension of its British patents.
 The company had applied for an extension to its 16-year patent on the benzyl pyrimidines, the principal one of which is trimethoprim.
 The High Court granted the extension under section 23 of the Patents Act 1949, which allows for an extension of patent life on the ground of inadequate remuneration.

\$22m Oman contract for Hawkers

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering is to build 19 diesel power stations in Oman under a contract worth more than \$22m. According to the company, this is the biggest contract ever received by a British company for equipment of this type.
 Seven Hawker Siddeley companies will be involved in the contract—supplying and erecting the stations and distribution networks. The order has been placed by the Sultanate's Ministry of Communications and Public Services.
 Equipment will be delivered between next March and the end of 1976, and the contract should be completed in the spring of 1978.
 Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering's design centre at Burdoo on the Wolds, Leicestershire, will coordinate the project and provide the construction and installation teams.

Joint float discussions inconclusive

Frankfurt, Dec 16.—Finance ministers and Central Bank governors of the European joint float member states—Germany, Benelux, Denmark, Norway and Sweden—took no decision and issued no communiqué after their weekend meeting here, a federal bank spokesman said today.
 Earlier he had referred to remarks made by Dr Hans Apel, the finance minister, to a German television interview that the aim of these meetings was to allow float members to come together from time to time to discuss monetary problems.
 In particular they are intended to ensure that the economic policies of members are in harmony, Dr Apel said. If inflation among the member states diverges too much this would have consequences for the grouping.—Reuter.

Oil emirates will open talks on full takeover

By Edward Townsend
 The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are to begin talks in the new year with western oil companies on the complete takeover of oil concessions.
 Mr Mana Al-Otaiba, the Abu Dhabi oil minister, said in London yesterday that the present concessionaires would not be granted special discounts off the basic market price; they would be offered a management fee strictly related to the value of services they provided.
 The move was expected after the Saudi Arabian decision to bring the Aramco consortium under 100 per cent government control.
 The state takeover effectively brought to an end an international oil company dominance over production which has persisted for almost 50 years in the Middle East.
 Operating companies within the UAE are British Petroleum, CIE Française des pétroles, Royal Dutch Shell, Mobil, Exxon, the Japanese Petroleum Corporation and other Japanese interests. They hold a 40 per cent share, with government interests totalling 60 per cent.
 Mr Otaiba, in London this week for preliminary talks with the oil companies on full government participation, said that an agreement on state control would also have to include provisions for the companies' future exploration and development activities.

Shipbuilders ready to cooperate despite nationalization doubts

By David Young
 Britain's shipbuilders said yesterday they opposed state involvement in the industry but they were prepared to make nationalisation work if it became inevitable.
 The Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association has, however, told the Government that there is no way in which it can support nationalisation of the ship-repairing industry.
 The association is now having discussions with the Department of Industry on nationalisation of the shipbuilding side but its report, published yesterday says the Government has not put forward any sort of case for state ownership.
 On shipbuilding the association says it does not consider nationalisation to be the best way of promoting greater prosperity and efficiency within the industry although it would be prepared to make it work.
 However, ship-repairing was an entirely different matter. It was small, but highly important as an employer in the areas where ship-repairers operated.
 Shipowners, both British and foreign, had expressed concern over the proposed nationalisation of the ship-repairing industry. They feared that by the very nature of nationalisation the close contact between repairer and shipowner would be destroyed.
 Peter Hill writes: Britain's shipbuilding output this year is not expected to rise much above one million tons gross despite hopes that output would move up from the plateau where it has rested for some time.
 Some 879,000 tons gross were completed at the end of the third quarter and around 200,000 tons gross of tonnage are scheduled to be delivered by the year end but it now seems most unlikely that much more than 200,000 tons will be completed.

emanating from the company's headquarters in the United States.
 "It is particularly harsh in view of the company's failure to make appropriate provision for redundancy compensation to those losing their jobs. This contrasts vividly with the generous sympathetic attitude shown by the British Leyland Motor Corporation who it retroceded about 2,000 people from its Zetland plant, near Sydney.
 "I am very angry about this development. We have taken the very steps suggested by GMH to reduce imports of Japanese cars and they publicly praised us for doing so. Now they have dealt us this sudden blow."

Minister condemns GM Holden cutback

From Herbert Mishaal Melbourne, Dec 16
 A sharp attack on General Motors Holden, the Australian-based car manufacturing company, has been made today by Mr K. E. Enderby, federal minister for manufacturing industry, after an announcement by the company that it proposed to dismiss 5,000 workers early next month.
 The company said it had been carrying too many workers for some time in the face of declining sales and continuing imports of foreign-made cars which showed no signs of reduction.
 Mr Enderby called this decision "a cruel, insensitive arrogant one, undoubtedly

to be appointed by Parliament to consider the long-term financing of political parties, the type of giving to be encouraged is that which is voluntarily made by individuals, rather than enforced, often against the wishes of the donors, from trades unions or corporate bodies.
 The provisions of the Bill, as they stand, will discourage such personal and voluntary giving.
 May I ask the Chancellor to accept an amendment to the Bill designed to extend to all political parties, including his own, the same exemption which is granted to charitable bodies:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harsh realities of decline in car industry productivity

From Mr E. G. Wood
 Sir, You kindly published my letter in February, 1973, pointing out that the census of production data revealed the decline in productivity in the car industry as far back as 1968. Perhaps those critics who howled me down as an unpatriotic prophet of disaster will now heed the harsh realities revealed by the figures.
 To 1963, after paying out each £1 of wage/salary the vehicle industry had 81p left over to cover overhead expenses and profit. By 1968 this figure had fallen to 75p; in 1970 to 49p; and in 1971 to 36p. Thus, the industry has been paying out so much in wages and salaries that it could not afford to finance its own investment programme.
 Instead of expecting other people to pay for their investment while they continue to enjoy wages and salaries roughly 25 per cent above the national average, these people should put their own house in order either by increasing their output and sales to generate sufficient added value to cover their high wages, or by cutting their payroll until the added value per £1 of wage/salary comes more in line with the national average of 1.92.
 The plain truth is that you cannot share out what doesn't exist. The sooner that the

motor vehicle industry faces up to this fact the sooner we shall be on the road to real prosperity.
 Yours sincerely,
 E. G. WOOD,
 Director,
 Sheffield Polytechnic,
 Centre for Innovation and Productivity,
 Halfords House,
 16 Fitzalan Square,
 Sheffield,
 December 12.

From Mr E. M. Hall
 Sir, A few years ago I bought British Leyland shares. They paid meagre dividends and steadily decreased in value. Eventually I sold them at a considerable loss. They had proved to be a poor investment and I would not choose to invest in the company again. Yet, it seems, I am now to be forced, as a taxpayer, to make such an investment.
 This is not only unjust, it is also an encouragement to both management and shop floor workers to be cynical and selfishly indifferent to considerations of efficiency and profitability. The end of that road is ruin for us all.
 Yours faithfully,
 E. M. HALL,
 5 Fair Mile,
 Henley-on-Thames,
 Oxfordshire.

Safeguards of final pay pension schemes

From Mr J. K. Lovell
 Sir, Surely Mr P. J. S. Brool is wrong in his view about the injustices of "final pay" pension schemes (December 3)? It is now common practice to incorporate the following allgably definition of pensionable emoluments in such pension arrangements:
 "Pensionable salary means the higher of:
 (a) A member's highest salary for any one of the five years before normal retirement or retirement or leaving the service whichever is the earliest; or
 (b) The highest yearly average of the member's salary for a three or more consecutive years ending not earlier than 10 years before normal retirement or retirement or leaving the service whichever is the earliest but so that for the purposes of this definition the salary for a year except the last before date of calculation shall be increased in proportion to any increase in the Index of Retail Prices from the last day of that year up to the date of calculation."
 With indexing, these provisions give a very substantial safeguard against the type situation he describes for employees whose earning power may lessen as they grow old.
 Yours faithfully,
 J. K. LOVELL,
 Finance Secretary and Accountant,
 University College London,
 Gower Street, WC1.

Problems of employing staff

From Mr Arnold Lever
 Sir, Mr Donald Cropper's authoritative letter (November 15) does not go far enough. As a small business we are not interested in temporary staff who are recognised to be the natural diet of his private agencies.
 Our interest is in permanent staff, but we are disgusted by the excessive charges for the minimal "service" of introducing seemingly unvetted (and frequently unsatisfactory) applicants for clerical and commercial vacancies. The charges demanded are based on a

year's salary, even if the applicant leaves after a few weeks. We welcome the efforts being made to modernize the image of the state employment service, nevertheless we are putting forward a request to our British Fabric Federation to organize a non-profit-making agency to cover the textile trade. We wonder whether other sections of industry should not follow suit?
 Yours faithfully,
 ARNOLD LEVER,
 Arnold Lever (London) Limited,
 4-15 Lisle Street,
 London W1.

Floored boards

From Mr Matthew J. Thompson
 Sir, I was disturbed to see your Diary note today on the London Stock Exchange: "The strength of the floor has been reduced 25 per cent in the past few months." Could this be why the bottom has fallen out of the market?
 I beg to remain your obedient servant,
 MATTHEW J. THOMPSON,
 St Andrews Cottage,
 Much Hadham, Herts.

Gifts tax and party political donations

From Mr Philip Watkins
 Sir, The provisions of the Finance Bill published December 10 will ensure that donations by an individual to a political party will, if they exceed the levels laid down in the Bill, attract liability to Capital Transfer Tax, more commonly known as Gifts Tax.
 I cannot believe this will be helpful to the democratic process in this country. Experience, both here and in the United States in recent years, has surely shown that, pending the conclusions of the committee shortly

to be appointed by Parliament to consider the long-term financing of political parties, the type of giving to be encouraged is that which is voluntarily made by individuals, rather than enforced, often against the wishes of the donors, from trades unions or corporate bodies.
 The provisions of the Bill, as they stand, will discourage such personal and voluntary giving.
 May I ask the Chancellor to accept an amendment to the Bill designed to extend to all political parties, including his own, the same exemption which is granted to charitable bodies:

namely, that donations for political purposes up to a specific upper level should also be exempt from liability to the tax.
 The financial health of political parties is essential if they are to contribute effectively to our democratic system. Such an amendment would, I believe, be of considerable help towards that health.
 Yours truly,
 PHILIP WATKINS,
 Honorary Treasurer,
 The Liberal Party,
 7 Exchange Court,
 Strand,
 London, WC2.

Central security body is planned by NCC

A central reference body is planned by the National Computing Centre which will be concerned with procedures and standards for all aspects of computer security.
 This body will promote the principles of risk management to computer-based systems, and will aim to produce two manuals of practice in computer security. One manual will be for professional computing staff, and the other for general management.
 These moves follow recommendations made by a National Study Group on the security of computer-based systems, whose report, *Where next for computer security?* has just been published by the NCC at £4.60.
 The book, which is aimed primarily at computer professionals and users, evaluates the main security techniques in current use and offers advice on improving existing systems.
 Management Dynamics plans to enter the IBM-based service bureau market with an accounting service known as Direct Dial Data, developed by General Computer Services of El Paso, Texas.
 Data-capture centres are to be set up at regional offices throughout Britain. These will be equipped with MDS-type magnetic tape equipment linked to an IBM mainframe computer at the group's main data centre. Clients will be linked to the

data-capture centres by numeric keyboard terminals attached to an ordinary telephone.
 Mr Brian Chorlton, managing director of Management Dynamics, said that his group's parent organization, Greyhound Computer Corporation, is finalizing an agreement with General Computer Services covering the marketing of the service.
GTE expands software
 Expansion in the field of software packages is planned by GTE Information Systems, the United Kingdom subsidiary of General Telephone and Electronics Corporation.
 Among the packages being marketed are Score, a Cobol program generator and retrieval system which is in use with Shell Petroleum; and Intercom, a

teleprocessing monitor which has been installed in five of Imperial Chemical Industries' computer centres.
COM extension
 Eurocom Data, the computer-output-to-microfilm (COM) company which is owned jointly by National Westminster Bank and the United States National Bank of Oregon, is to expand its European operations by opening new branches in Germany and Sweden.
 This was announced by Mr Gerald Pickering, deputy general manager of National Westminster's related banking services division, at the opening of Eurocom's third United Kingdom branch, at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
 Kenneth Owen

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Penguins to cut staff and book titles

Penguin Books has announced a 20 per cent cutback in its new book programme for 1975 as well as 33 redundancies, despite worldwide sales in the year exceeding 40 million for the first time.
 Trade unions involved at Penguin's headquarters in West London have objected to the redundancies and will have a meeting with the management in the coming week.
 A spokesman for the company said the redundancies and the cutback in new titles were designed to strengthen its position in 1975. Emphasis will be on the reprint side, but 450 new titles were envisaged over three years.

Co-op Bank and TSBs

From the beginning of next year the Co-operative Bank and the Trustee Savings Banks are to become part of the Eurocheque system. Both will progressively phase out their existing cheque cards, replacing them with the uniform card.
 This has a dark blue colour strip and an EC symbol which was introduced at the beginning of this year. The two banks have already been admitted to the Bankers' Clearing House.

Qatar loan to France

The Qatar government has agreed to lend France \$150m (about £68m), usually reliable sources in Doha reported yesterday. They were speaking soon after M Norbert Segard, the French minister of state for foreign trade, left on the next leg of a Middle East trip including three Gulf States.

£100m for Dutch gas

Several companies which have found natural gas in the Dutch part of the North Sea plan to spend 600m guilders (about £100m) on production platforms and a transport and delivery system to bring ashore the first gas by 1976-77 at Callantsof.

Marconi's PO award

Marconi Communication Systems is to supply shore-based microwave radio communication equipment for the Post Office's North Sea telecommunications services under a £1.5m contract announced yesterday.

Scottish bases plea

Scotland's Council for Development and Industry will press the Government and private industry to set up more of their headquarters in Scotland. Lord Clydesdale, chairman of the council, told its annual meeting in Dundee yesterday.

Rollei layoffs

Photographic group Rollei Werke und Heilecke plans to make redundant 1,400 of its 2,400 staff in Germany and half the 6,000 employees in Singapore, depending on sales during the next two years. If sales improve by more than 10 per cent some staff may be retained.


Clyde jobs boost

A new Clydebank company has won orders worth £5m for the offshore oil industry and about 600 new jobs will be created, mostly for welders, boilermakers and fitters. The company — JBE Offshore — is a wholly-owned subsidiary of John Brown Engineering (Clydebank).


Results for the 52 weeks to 27th September 1974

	1974	1973
	£000	£000
Trading Results		
Sales	52,110	46,962
Pre-Tax Profit	2,811	812
Profit Available for Ordinary Dividends	1,707	1,044
Ordinary Dividends	504 (17½%)	375 (13%)
Balance Sheet	£m	£m
Fixed Assets	14.8	15.1
Current Assets — Stocks	15.3	16.7
— Debtors	11.1	10.3
— Creditors	(8.2)	(8.0)
— (Short-Term Borrowings)	(3.0)	(5.5)
Net Current Assets	15.2	13.7
	30.0	28.8
Financed by: Shareholders Funds	20.2	19.0
Long-Term Borrowings	8.0	8.8
Deferred Tax, etc.	1.8	1.0
	9.8	9.8
	30.0	28.8

Exports increased from £8.9 million to £12.1 million.
 Mr Barlow's report concludes: "Ball and roller bearings are essential for modern life and our products are required for the maintenance of a wide range of industrial, transport and military equipment in many countries. We are offsetting the slow down in certain sectors by additional activity on other bearing ranges where we can excel against world competition. As a result, our factories are currently well loaded."
 "The Company is in a stronger position than ever before and despite inflation and general economic uncertainties I believe we shall continue to improve our performance."
 S. W. Barlow



Joseph Lucas (Industries) Ltd.



An important opportunity for new business

The year 1973/74 was characterised by two major events — the three-day week and the energy crisis. These events simply accelerated an already high rate of inflation which has now reached crisis proportions, authoritatively described as the worst situation since the War. The task facing the Government is clearly formidable and its actions and the subsequent out-turn of events must have important implications for our business in the United Kingdom. Overseas we are similarly faced with a high rate of inflation of varying degrees and the continuing effect of the oil situation.

There is a lower demand for cars in the United Kingdom and in many overseas markets but the high price of oil has presented a new and important situation. The cost of oil is a decisive factor in the comparative economics of the petrol and diesel engines. The enormous increase in the price of fuel places the advantage clearly with the diesel engine. As the principal supplier of fuel injection and electrical equipment for diesel engines — not only in the United Kingdom but in many other parts of the world — we are faced with an unprecedented opportunity for new business. In other fields we can also improve our position, partly from meeting new requirements, but also from increasing our share of existing business — which is particularly true of our European operations.

All our overseas companies, in many parts of the world, have maintained a solid build-up of business over a number of years and we expect this growth to continue this year.

We do not underestimate the present economic difficulties but we do not feel overpowered by the prevailing atmosphere of gloom and it is therefore in a mood of sober confidence that we face the current difficulties as well as the important opportunities that we shall seize.

	1974	1973
	£m	£m
Sales — United Kingdom	286.7	269.4
— Overseas	166.1	129.8
	452.8	399.2
Surplus on trading	19.0	26.8
Profit before taxation	17.6	26.7**
Taxation	8.0	9.5
Profit after taxation	9.6	17.2

**Includes £1.8 million against Rolls-Royce Ltd. debt no longer required.

At the Company's Annual General Meeting held in Birmingham on December 16th 1974 shareholders approved the following special Resolution: That, subject to the approval of the Department of Trade, the name of the Company be changed with effect from 1st January 1975 to Lucas Industries Limited.

The above are extracts from the Company's Report and Accounts. Copies are available on request to Joseph Lucas Ltd., Public Relations Department, Great King Street, Birmingham B19 2XF.



British ball and roller bearings

Profits Increased... Borrowings Reduced... Prospects Good...

RHP Chairman, Mr G W Barlow, has reported to shareholders that the company's performance has been the best since the merger. Profit before tax in the 52 weeks to 27 September, 1974, increased to £2,811,000 compared with £812,000 in the previous year and Mr Barlow expects the profit improvement to continue.

The ordinary dividend has been increased from the 13% paid in the past two years to the 17½% rate last paid for 1970/71.

Over £1.9 million was spent during the year on the capital investment programme to improve profitability and efficiency, and it is expected that a further £2.5 million will be spent this year. Despite this heavy investment programme and rapid inflation, borrowings were reduced by over £3 million in the last financial year which was a considerable achievement.

The substantial reduction in borrowings, accompanied by a £1.4 million reduction in stocks, led to an improvement in liquidity and there are adequate cash resources to meet foreseeable future needs.

The UK divisions continued to produce improved results throughout the year, and the performance of the overseas subsidiaries was excellent.

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Ransome Hoffmann Pollard Limited

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, P.O. Box 7, Chalmersford, Essex.

مكتبة الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

America fills some gaps for Hanson

Survival is the game, then to Trust looks better than many with a relative balance sheet due month and cash of around underpinning a market valuation of £16.6m.



Mr. James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust. Cash of £22m underpins a market worth of £16.6m.

Mr. Hanson believes this is a next year to around the 100 mark.

Tubes/Midland

Buying market share

Midland Aluminium is being cagey about the extent of the damage done by its venture into Europe, but is strongly of the opinion that shareholders and the market will be disappointed with the results for the half year to end-September, which compare with a pre-tax total of £1.08m last time.

Under these circumstances the group might have been expected to ride out teething problems overseas, even though the initial £250,000 consideration for the purchase of an 80 per cent stake in Interdom's equity was due to be supplemented by subscription of an additional £300,000 plus in new equity during 1974.

As for Tubes, assuming that there is no reference to the Monopolies Commission, it will have purchased itself for what is, in the context of its own balance sheet, mere chicken-feed, a very large stake in two important markets.

Albright & Wilson

Tenneco reaps some reward

Albright & Wilson shareholders cannot fairly be regarded about the terms of which Tenneco is converting its loan stock into equity.

price that it negotiated a conversion price of 32 1/2p on the £17.5m of convertible loan stock it subscribed, on a coupon of 5 per cent, the following year.

The American group was about the only big financial backer Albright could find then. That the share price is now back up to 36p (after bumping along around 20p through the bull market) is thanks to Tenneco's backing and a fortuitous rise in world phosphate prices, for the Long Harbour plant has yet to prove itself.

The fully diluted historic p/e of over 6 is the conversion price is in any case generous enough by present chemical sector standards.

True, Tenneco obviously gains from exchanging a 5 per cent running yield on the loan stocks for an implied gross yield of over 11 per cent on equity at the conversion price. But though Albright would now probably have to pay nearer 15 per cent than 5 per cent on a loan stock its low gearing (ex conversion) and the cash position probably render such a move unnecessary at this stage.

Martin the Newsagent

Christmas spending

Some £110,000 of Martin's full year profits gain of £125,000 was made in the first six months of the year, despite the fact that sales jumped by 42 per cent in the second half, against a rise of just 13 per cent at the interim stage.

With margins in the final six months dropping from 5.3 per cent to 3.8 per cent, the results give some indication of the sort of inflationary crosses the retailers have had to bear in the wake of last May's enforced gross margin reduction.

Martin has evidently gained from the buoyant trend in retail sales discernible from July onwards. Most of last year's expansion in the selling area was completed by the interim stage. And, looking at the group's sales mix, substantial increases in cover, prices and tobacco products suggest that the inflation element alone in group sales is running at an annual rate of around a third against the board.

Nevertheless, a gain of over two-fifths in the final six months, and reports of that accelerating to 55 per cent over the past few weeks, points to some strong volume growth in front of Christmas, while a forecast of higher interim profits this time shows that the group is recovering from the once and for all squeeze on gross margins. But no retailer is prepared to stick its neck out about spending trends next year, although Martin, whose dependence on high-margin, luxury or semi-luxury merchandise is less than that of say, W. H. Smith is feeling happy enough to maintain its high rate of physical expansion within the confines of cash flow.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalisation £23.9m Pre-tax profits £1.51m (£1.38m) Earnings per share 14.1p (15.1p) Dividend gross 5.45p (4.856p) *Excluding VAT

Boots pumps 1.2 million gallons of effluent, the waste from pharmaceuticals manufacture, from its two Nottingham factories every working day. Until now it has cost them £30,000 a year for local authority sewerage works to cope with it.

The Severn-Trent Water Authority, one of the 10 newly created giant undertakings that now look after everything in the water resources and treatment in England and Wales, has in initial consultations told the company that the charge next year ought to go up 500 per cent to £250,000.

Boots, like every other industry coping with many inflationary pressures while strait-jacketed by the Price Commission, has reacted to the predictable reaction. Dr Raymond Grafton, their safety and environment officer, said: "This is not the biggest item in our budget, but it is significant. We can't just accept an enormous increase. Naturally we are protesting most strongly."

This basic scenario, with a number of variations is being played out in many other places as water authorities near the year-end point of decision on next year's charges. It reflects the fact that, after being in business for less than a year, the water undertakings are running into rough financial waters.

The deeper the new authorities have gone into the affairs of the 1,600 authorities they have replaced, the more the bills have mounted. Total historical debt alone is £2,500m, taking in water supply, sewerage, sewage disposal, the work of the river boards and the rest of the hydrological cycle.

Combined turnover of the water authorities is £600m a year. Capital outlay this year is around £400m. An Iranian loan for that amount has just been taken up.

It is questionable whether

they will get Whitehall permission for all they want to spend next year, but if the water authorities had their way the loan burden—with its present high cost of servicing—would be substantial.

For the new authorities appear to have been shattered by the way some local authorities were content to put off needed sewerage work, while still pressing on with new housing schemes and industrial expansion. Schemes like this in future are likely to be held up by a virtual sewer or services moratorium.

The effects of some local authorities—but by no means all—following that old political maxim of there being no votes in a rural sewer or services are now seen to be coming home to roost.

Increased wage payments and inflation of general costs are also hitting the water authorities as much as any other industry.

In the past year, too, the disappearance of the rate support grant has geared up the water bills, a situation worsened in some areas—especially Wales—by there having been hitherto various masked subsidies from general rating funds.

It has all brought a note almost of desperation into some of the informal discussions on next year's charges now going on within the water authorities. In the London supply area, for instance, because they have good existing facilities.

At local level the picture is, to say the least, more varied. The Welsh Water Development Authority, for instance, plans to equalize rates for water supply next year despite

Companies face higher bills for treating effluent in the wake of water authority reorganization

current official recommendations that such measures should be phased in over at least two years from last April's inauguration of the new authorities.

This follows some steep rises in the current year which, in Anglesey for instance, went to a 100 per cent increase. Local Confederation of British Industry officials have been worried about industrial effects from this alone, especially on big water users like textile companies.

One Welsh textile company's bill jumped from an annual £12 to £45. Equalization would in fact bring down water charges in rural areas, but a lot of city and suburban bills could double. Wales—with historic debts of £178m and another £87m already committed over the next five years—has still to quantify economic costs for treatment of industrial effluent.

For most industrialists this rather than water supply looks like being the high-cost factor. So much evidence was mounting of many water authorities wanting to hoist charges sharply next year for effluent processing, with a 500 per cent jump

by no means unusual, that the CBI started investigating effects on industrial costings.

While bigger companies, if they have to, can arguably absorb such escalations, the scale of increase in effluent charges could be critical for some medium-sized and smaller enterprises.

The difference between survival and closure could especially become a real issue for companies in engineering, in leather processing, in plating and in textile dyeing.

Mr Peter Malcolm, assistant regional secretary at the West Midlands CBI, said: "We are still at the consultative stage with the water authority, but it is clear there could be very serious effects, for instance, for the East Midlands textile companies. In the West Midlands there is grave concern at the prospect of increased charges."

A survey of textile dyeing companies, heavily concentrated in the Leicester-Nottingham area has shown charges could rise an average 500 per cent, with some companies paying more than that.

A typical 200-employee dyeing company will currently be paying around £3,600 a year for effluent processing. A jump to £18,000 in one year could in some cases represent a full 2 per cent of turnover.

Although the Severn-Trent authority at first appeared to want to bring in such swingeing increases in 1975, Business News was subsequently told: "In some cases, to recover the cost of effluent treatment in certain areas where charges are lifted, we should need to make 500 per cent increases. This would obviously be undesirable. Discussions are continuing on the means of phasing the increases. No formal applications for charges have been made."

Severn-Trent make the point that present charges are grossly below cost, in some areas—as at Telford new town—there being total subsidy from the general

rates. Moreover, in "many cases", they say, charges have not been reviewed for the past two to four years.

Unlike the Welsh authority, Severn-Trent have now decided to equalize water supply charges over five years with a 20 per cent annual maximum.

Whatever route each water authority takes to try to claw its way back to financial stability, it is obviously going to be a tricky climb. The Welsh, for example, have taken counsel's opinion on whether they are entitled to surcharge all the water they export.

Water recycling, until now hardly an economic proposition, could become a serious option for many companies. W. Cannon, a Birmingham company which is a giant in producing equipment in this field, regards it as a developing market medium term.

Equalization of charges could prove an even bumper ride that appears at the moment. The Jukes Committee, which originally recommended a two year phasing for equalization, is apparently likely to put out a new view. If it is agreed by the Secretary of State, recommending that rather than pursuing equalization at the present time, authorities should consider covering costs of specific schemes in the immediate area benefiting from it.

At some point, the Department will have to face the question of whether to opt for the traditional last resort with a nationalized industry and write off all or part of the historical debt.

More than one water authority has said in private that this is the only way for their finances to begin to make sense. Alternatively Wales, at least, arguably has a case for an interim subsidy.

Derek Harris

Vital measures jeopardized by a sluggish US Congress

The United States Congress, often a sluggish, overly ponderous body, is now threatening to strike a severe blow at the prospects of a brighter future for a world at present beset by the gravest economic dislocation seen in four decades.

Through a display of ineptitude and lack of a sense of urgency, Congress appears set to fail in the task of enacting vital legislation, Senator Robert Byrd, one of the most powerful Democrats on Capitol Hill, candidly admits that it is still uncertain whether even the single most important Bill before Congress, the Trade Reform Bill, will be passed before the year-end.

However, the Bill's chances have been improved by an overwhelming Senate vote last Friday.

The ninety-third Congress is scheduled to end around December 21, and time pressures are certain to bring death to most Bills pending. Bills that fail to be enacted this year will have to be introduced as entirely new pieces of legislation in the ninety-fourth Congress.

March of the next legislative session will be devoted to House of Representatives and Senate organizational problems and thus, Bills not passed now, will take at least several months to come law, with the delays in some cases having severe and costly consequences.

From the economic standpoint the most vital Bills pending concern the Federal budget, unemployment questions, trade and energy. It would be false to give the impression that all hope of legislation on these matters is lost; Congress has managed in the past to act with dispatch on occasion. But as the clock ticks on, so many expert observers are giving odds on a lower odds on the chances of a President Ford recently proposed a 5 per cent income tax surcharge and \$4,600m (about £2,000m) of budget cuts, but he and top White House officials now admit that the prospects of

being passed this year are being reduced to a bare minimum. The impact of Congress's inaction here and on other budget measures will be a much heavier dose of inflation for the economy than the Administration desires.

Wilbur Mills, the once powerful chairman of the House ways and means committee, introduced a reduced version of his earlier tax reform Bill late last month, with the hope that by making it less complex it would stand a greater chance of passage before the session ends.

The Bill includes significant tax relief for lower income groups. But the Bill, because of a time shortage, has now been killed by the Senate Rules Committee, although parts of it may be added to other Bills.

The tax Bill's chances have also been sharply reduced by the swift decline in Mr. Mills's influence, following his recent involvement in a scandal.

The downfall of the Arkansas Democrat, who is recovering from his folly by a sojourn in hospital, leaves Congress without one of its most able experts at rushing legislation through, and this could endanger several Bills now pending.

A Bill that has now not even the faintest chance of passage is to extend the existing ban on United States citizens owning gold beyond December 31. This piece of legislation, proposed by Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House subcommittee on international commerce, is keenly supported by Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Senator Edward Brooke, a Republican from Massachusetts, has proposed legislation to repeal resale price maintenance laws, which claims will save consumers about \$2,000m a year. This Bill, however, is just not high up enough on Congress's priority list to get enacted in the few remaining days of the current session.

More than 30 assorted pieces of energy legislation are pending and nearly all of them will have to be reintroduced next year. Senator Henry Jackson, Washington state Democrat, has just introduced a standby energy emergency Bill that would give the President the power to impose mandatory controls on domestic oil consumption and all imports.

This Bill has broad support and may just manage to get through Congress, but President Ford said in a December 10 letter to Senator Jackson that he could not support the Bill in its present form. A series of amendments will have to be made to ensure that the Bill does not get vetoed by the President and time is swiftly running out.

Some sort of legislation dealing with unemployment appears assured, but even at this late date its final shape remains uncertain.

The task of getting a Bill through is going to test the skills of Al Ullman, Democrat from Oregon, who is acting chairman of the ways and means committee. He has sponsored an emergency unemployment programme and will have to work flat out in the next few days if a Bill dealing adequately with both public service jobs and increased unemployment benefits is to get through both Houses of Congress.



Representative Wilbur Mills, long respected as chairman of the House ways and means committee after a scandal could endanger several pending Bills; his own tax reform proposals were killed through lack of time.

Finally, and most importantly, there is the Trade Reform Bill, which has been before Congress for more than 20 months and whose fate remains uncertain.

The AFL-CIO trade union organization has increased its efforts to rally opposition to the Bill on the argument that trade liberalization will add to American unemployment.

The Administration wants the trade Bill passed more than any other piece of legislation. The Bill, with its provisions covering Soviet trade, could enhance the prospects for East-West détente if passed. Failure to enact the Bill could seriously snuff détente, while producing hardship to many Russians who have applied for emigration visas (trade concessions to the Russians in the Bill are tied to Soviet assurances on emigration).

Failure to enact the Bill could also wreck all hopes of a new GATT trade liberalization round. The Bill has just got through the Senate, by 71 votes to 4, but it must now go to a joint conference of both Houses and after that it must return for a final vote in each House. There are not even five days left for this whole procedure.

The next few days ought to be of frenzied activity on Capitol Hill. At this point one can say with confidence that key trade, unemployment and energy Bills have only an even chance of passage, while a host of important Bills dealing with the environment, social welfare, financial institutions and the securities industry will have to wait for action by the ninety-fourth Congress.

Frank Vogel

INTERIM STATEMENT

BRABY LESLIE LIMITED

(formerly Economic Group Limited)

Mechanical and Civil Engineers

INTERIM STATEMENT

The unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September, 1974 are given below together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 30th September, 1973 and the full year ended 31st March, 1974.

	Half-year ended 30th September, 1974	Half-year ended 30th September, 1973	Year ended 31st March, 1974
Turnover	£866	£688	£1,882
Trading Profit	666	500	1,051
Interest	(139)	(95)	(199)
Group Pre-tax Profit	417	405	852
Taxation (note 1)	(133)	(114)	(262)
GROUP NET PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	£284	£291	£590
attributable to Braby Leslie Limited			
Earnings per Ordinary Share—actual	(note 2) 6.7p	5.9p	12.3p
Earnings per Ordinary Share assuming full tax charge at 52%—fully diluted	3.9p	3.5p	7.4p
Net tangible assets per Ordinary Share	36.9p	27.2p	31.6p

NOTES:
1.—The taxation charge at 52% comprises a transfer to Tax Equalisation Account in view of the capital allowances and stock appreciation relief available. Tax losses carried forward of £1.4 million are available against future profits in the appropriate companies.
2.—The comparative figures for earnings and net tangible assets per Ordinary Share have been adjusted to reflect the capitalisation of £310,500 on 18th August, 1974.

Your Board has declared an interim dividend amounting to £2,586,100 for the year ending 31st March, 1975 at 0.75p (gross 1.118p) per share on the Ordinary Share Capital. Such dividend is payable on 24th January, 1975 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 20th December, 1974. This compares with the interim dividend equivalent to 0.6562p (gross 0.9375p) per share amounting to £28,584 (net) paid on 4th January, 1974 in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1974.

In the absence of any unforeseen circumstances, your Board expects to recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary Share Capital for the year ending 31st March, 1975 of 2.208p (gross 3.2957p) per share, which would make a total of 2.9581p (gross 4.4151p) per share, being the maximum permitted by the Government. For the previous year the maximum final dividend payable (before taxation for the scrip dividend) was equivalent to 1.9628p (gross 2.8041p) per share making a total equivalent of 2.6191p (gross 3.7416p) per share.

Despite the heavy increase in our costs and interest charges and the delayed effect of the three-day week on our component suppliers, turnover and profits in the Mechanical Engineering Division have improved and all works have good order books. In the Civil Engineering Division the workload in Scotland is increasing, but elsewhere the cutback by the Government has led to reduced work for the Post Office and local authorities. In view of the difficult circumstances which have prevailed during the half-year, the profit made by the Civil Engineering Division can be regarded as satisfactory.

The cost of financing increased working capital remains high, but our bank facilities are adequate for our present and estimated future requirements. Given reasonable stability and trading conditions your Board has every confidence in the future development of the Group.

JOHN HINE, Chairman

Business Diary: Lost in the computer • Whipp hand

Benn's announcement David Firnberg is the awaited new director of the National Computing Centre to catch the Department of Industry, the centre even Firnberg himself on top yesterday.

His department referred to in the NCC's Memorandum who in turn declined to accept the appointment on grounds that it was still in wraps. Firnberg himself is available either at his flat or at his Hertford home when Business Diary yesterday.

Of course, could be anywhere—our centre the new job, perhaps. The centre should know so was passing strange, however, since according to the memorandum he was to have taken up the appointment yesterday.



Hollywood "If the pound is devalued by 22 per cent in three years, how long will it be before...?"

data processing, before setting up his own show, Geoffrey Firnberg Associates. He was, however, involved with government enquiries, more with consulting and training assignments.

And that's after chasing about between London, Manchester and deep Hertfordshire. It is about all there is to be said for the moment. No doubt all the confusion can be put down to a hiccup somewhere in the computer.

of the horticultural industry, the island's biggest, and increased interest in the island from light industry. There are no plans to replace him.

Church is a rolling stone whose career has taken him to the United States and to South Africa. He said that much of the work envisaged by the island's planning and finance committee when they made the appointment has now been done.

If so, then this fits in well with critics of the £9,000-a-year plus appointment, said to be the biggest salary received by a public official on the island. The appointment was made by the island's advisory and finance committee, whose chairman, Edward Colles, is Guernsey's equivalent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The creation of the post, and even more its remuneration, took some people by surprise and there were complaints of inadequate consultation.

Then some of the island's economic surveillance—namely that of scrutinizing the new banks flocking to its hospitable shores—went elsewhere. All Church would add last night was that the job was no longer big enough.

Is Sir Don Ryder, the Government's new industrial adviser, already encountering difficulties in understanding the circumstances surrounding the Government's Office? Business Diary saw a messenger from that department inquiring last week after an order placed by the office for a copy of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary.

Rolling stone Geoffrey Church, Guernsey's first—and for some time at least, last—director of economic development, is heading for the mainland with half of his five-year contract to run.

Church, who is 45, is to return to an old speciality. He came to Guernsey from Fillingdon Brothers, where he advocated, designed and built the company's Wrexham fibre-glass plant.

From February, he will become production director for Composite Materials Engineering and Fibre Limited, an Avonmouth-based maker of composite materials for everything from rockets to deep water wells.

He leaves behind him a 10-year economic development plan for the island, and a study

based... Reduc... 000...

FINANCIAL NEWS

Buoyant freight and engineering sides bring cheer to Giltspur

By Adrienne Gleeson
On the back of a 14.7 per cent advance in sales to £21.46m for the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits of industrial services group Giltspur have advanced from £1.21m to £1.31m, an outcome which Mr Maxwell Joseph, chairman, considers "most encouraging" in view of the difficult conditions within which the group has been operating.

contribution from associated companies fell sharply, from £118,000 to £65,000. The chairman says that the facilities available are adequate for future expansion and expected trading levels. The half-time balance sheet shows a small increase in cash from £1.68m to £1.86m, but bank overdrafts have increased from £2.24m to £4.3m, although this is not reflected in the interim interest charges, which are down from £423,000 to £341,000.

British Car Auction's opening upswing takes group 'over worst'

The confident mood three months ago at British Car Auction Group in spite of a sharp fall in profits seems to have been justified with a sparkling upswing in opening results to November 11. Turnover climbed 13 per cent to £27.08m, on which pre-tax earnings jumped 41 per cent to £402,000. The board is to consider an interim dividend in April next, which would be payable on May 31 (against 1p).

The pattern in the preceding year were losses in the early months of the second-half, but a recovery in the final quarter, which was maintained in the half just past. For the rest of the year, the new car business is unlikely to show any improvement, and at present the manufacturing side is beset with troubles. Nevertheless, the current level of trading indicates that the company "is over the worst".

May & Hassell profit cut by £2m after stock write-off

Falling world prices for timber hurt importing and merchanting group May & Hassell severely in the six months to the end of September. Interim pre-tax profits have been slashed from £3.2m to £1.2m on sales slightly higher at £16.1m.

Hawtin sale to Gulf & Western

By Christopher Wilkins
Shares in Hawtin, Ltd, the banking and finance group were suspended at 3p yesterday to allow talks to proceed which will lead to Gulf & Western Industries acquiring its banking business.

Slater stock redemption

With the purchase for redemption of some £10m of unsecured stocks, Slater, Walker Securities has made a further substantial reduction in its loan stock commitments. The deal, involving major investment institutions both in Britain and abroad, reduces the total of the group's United Kingdom quoted loan stock still outstanding by about one-fifth.

Jessel and the stake in JFB

Standing down as chairman from yesterday, Mr Oliver Jessel told the annual meeting of Johnson & Firth Brown that it was a matter of great regret that the future of Jessel Securities' stake in the company was in doubt. There were "no cross-guarantees from any part of this company to associated companies, or vice versa", he added.

Jessel and the stake in JFB

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...that The Leeds Permanent has performed so well is an indication of the confidence placed in the Society by its investors.

Total assets reach £1,109 million. Gross investment receipts were a record £447 million - this enabled the Society to sustain lending at over £4 million each week throughout the year. In one year, £217 million loaned to 33,000 families buying their own homes.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society. Head Office: Permanent House, The Meadow, Leeds LS1 1NS. One of the 'Big Five'. A Member of the Building Societies Association. Shares and Deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments.

RTZ earnings may slip

Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation is forecasting pre-tax profits for 1974 above the £225m of 1973. But due to higher taxation, the attributable profits will be somewhat below last year's £69.6m. The board yesterday restated the interim figures to allow for full consolidation of Bougainville Copper in September ahead of the settlement of the new agreement with the Papua New Guinea Government, until dividends from Bougainville were included.

RHP in good trim

In a "stronger position than ever before", Ransome Hoffman Pollard looks to a continuing improvement to performance in the present term. Mr G. W. Barlow, chairman, tells members that the slow down in some sectors was being offset by traditional activity on other bearing ranges where the group excels against world competition. As a result, factories are "well loaded". Last year's pre-tax profit leapt from £812,000 to £2.31m.

INTERIM STATEMENT

Interim Statement by the Chairman, Mr J H B Atley Half-Year ended 30th September, 1974

May & Hassell LIMITED

Interim Statement by the Chairman, Mr J H B Atley Half-Year ended 30th September, 1974

RESULTS. Profit achieved despite a massive write down of stock values to a realistic base level from which the Group can trade profitably in the next six months. The quantity of stock held at the end of the period was significantly lower than at 30th September, 1973.

DIVIDENDS. Proposed interim dividend represents an increase of almost 12 1/2 per cent on the equivalent last year.

ACQUISITIONS. The Halifax Timber Merchant business of John Crossland and Son Limited has been acquired and four months very encouraging trading is included. Allan Bros. Limited, Berwick on Tweed, acquired in April, 1974, has made a significant contribution to the profit figure and is continuing to trade very satisfactorily.

TAXATION. The recent budget provision relating to stock inflation will reduce the Group's liability to Corporation Tax in January, 1975, from £2.6m to £1.2m which will greatly assist the Group's liquidity.

OUTLOOK. Your Group is well placed to weather the storm of worsening world recession and when it is over will most certainly emerge from it all the stronger.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS (UNAUDITED)

Table with 4 columns: Year to, Half Year to, 30th Sept, 31st March. Rows include Turnover, Profit before taxation, Interim dividend per ordinary share.

Copies of the Interim Report are available from the Secretary, 3/8 Redcliffe Parade West, Bristol BS9 7PH.

Christy-HAT disposal

With the effect of reducing group drawings by up to £300,000, Christy Bros is to sell the electrical contracting business of its offshoot Christy Electrical to HAT Group, HAT is acquiring the fixed and trading assets of the business and has formed a new company, Christy Electrical Contractors. The value of Christy will be the realisation of the assets involved in the business.

EIB Ulster loan

The European Investment Bank, the European Community's medium-term lending institution, has completed its first loan to Ulster of £2.5m for a period of five years, 10 per cent £2.5m funding for Short Brothers and Harland, the Belfast aircraft company. The loan will finance development of the SD3-30 wide-bodied commuter aircraft. So far this year the EIB has lent £54.3m to the United Kingdom.

Cape Inds buying T & N unit

Directors of Turner & Newall and Cape Industries have agreed on the transfer of the insulation contracting business of Turner & Newall's subsidiary, Newalls Insulation, to Cape Contracts, a subsidiary of Cape Industries, with effect January 1. This transaction is subject to satisfactory indications that it will not be referred for investment.

Margins and charges squeeze Shaw Carpets

Margin pressure and an industrial stoppage early in the half contribute to an opening setback to Shaw Carpets. On sales of £8.35m against £7.1m, trading profit was up from £924,000 to £959,000, but after higher depreciation and interest, the pre-tax dropped from £525,000 to £367,000 for the 27 weeks to November 1. The interim payment is 1.3p (1.25p). Increasing costs have brought home margin pressure, particularly as selling prices could not be raised until September 1. But exports are still improving (up 53 per cent in the preceding year).

Business appointments

Mr Peter Johnson takes over as JFB chairman

Mr Peter Johnson has been made chairman of Johnson and Firth Brown following the resignation of Mr Oliver Jessel, who continues as a director of the company. Mr E. S. Tibbets as deputy chief executive of Lloyds Bank International on his retirement next April. Mr M. R. Luffert, after temporary attachment to Lloyds Bank, will return to LBI to succeed Mr Whitte as head of the European division and has been appointed director.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 16 - After moving indecisively for most of the day, the New York stock market had its second consecutive setback and finished lower to moderate trading.

Cronite Group

With turnover of the Cronite Group from £1.47m to £2.26m for the year to September 30, taxable profits were 50 per cent higher at £244,000. After deductions for reorganisation, deferred tax adjustments and a change in the basis of stock valuations and adding a property sale surplus on the £1.47m, the profit after tax comes out at £55,000 (£142,000). Earnings were 3.3p (3.37p) and the total dividend 3.35p (3.37p).

Moderna unmoved

In spite of the counter-bid from Mountain Securities, the board of Moderna (Witney) says that with its advisers, Arthurton Latham, it could not give a unanimous recommendation to the proposed 64p cash for the ordinary only. Though prepared to reopen discussions with Mountain, Moderna continues to recommend the ordinary and preference offers of Bond Worth Holdings, which closes tomorrow.

Latest dividends

Table with columns: All dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies, Ord, Year, Pay date, Year's Prev, Dividend.



Mr G. C. D'Arcy Biss, chairman of Siebe Gorman. Solid progress maintained.

Interim leap by Siebe Gorman

Having leapt to a first-time £2m-plus last year, Siebe Gorman Holdings, the diving, fire-fighting and safety equipment group, notched up further growth in the first-half to September, underpinned by solid and continuing progress both in Britain and overseas in the current six months.

On turnover some 45 per cent higher at £11.2m, taxable profit climbed 23 per cent (against 47 per cent for the 12 months) to a record £1.23m. Contributions from associates, however, fell from £317,000 to £144,000. Excluding associates, therefore, half-year profits are up 57 per cent at £1.08m.

In the latter half the reduction from associates reflecting recent European restructurings and related disposal of interests in some former affiliated companies. Elsewhere, with the premises at Chessington, Surrey, now much larger than required, arrangements have been completed for production to move to Crawley, West Sussex. In September the group entered into two agreements for the sale of the premises for a total of £1.37m (book value £510,000). The first contract was completed in October for £687,000 for half the area, and the second is due between March, 1976 and 1977.

Stock markets Gilts' upsurge goes on

The stock market was in good form yesterday, following further details that Saudi Arabia was looking with disfavour upon the pound sterling. Gilts-edged stocks rose strongly, and inspired a good, if less dramatic recovery in share prices. The FT index closed 4.0 up at 156.2 (after 156.7). Turnover remained unexciting however, as displayed by a total of only 5,020 recorded bargains, the lowest Monday for two months.

Government bonds yesterday continued the strong rally set in train on Friday. For the first time for many sessions the short-dated "tap" Treasury 1 1/2 per cent 1979, became "operating". Dealers reported that the Government Broker managed to sell stock on a small scale at prevailing market prices.

Recent statements about the investment intentions of Saudi Arabia, together with the healthier trend in the sterling exchange rate and some closing of "bear positions" appeared to be the main factors behind the latest advance. However, buying was said to be insufficiently heavy to justify the sharp upward movement in prices that actually occurred.

Longer "shorts" ended with net gains of 7/16 to 3/4 point, while "mediums" and "longs" displayed a net advance of between 3/4 and 1/2 point. The market was described as still "highly nervous" and "volatile", with the discount market apparently pushing prices up at the "short end".

In the equity market, prices opened higher and quickly made further progress as gilts forged ahead. But turnover was light and many prices finished below their best levels when buyers failed to materialize. Equities have been almost dominated for the past week by the falls in gilts, which in turn reflected the fall in sterling caused by fears that Arab countries might be about to flee from sterling. The movements in market indices have not been accompanied by any great increases in business.

At the end of yesterday's session, ICI showed a net gain of 3p at 121p, having touched 124p earlier. Distillers recovered 2 1/2p to close at 67 1/2p, Bechams added 4p to 116p, Courtaulds

Table with columns: Dec 16, Dec 15, Dec 14, Dec 13, Dec 12, Dec 11, Dec 10, Dec 9, Dec 8, Dec 7, Dec 6, Dec 5, Dec 4, Dec 3, Dec 2, Dec 1. Rows include various stock prices.

Canadian Prices

Table with columns: Canadian Prices, various stock prices.

United City Merchants Limited. Chairman Eric Sosnow reports. SALES: £138,768,360 (£90,115,019). PRE-TAX PROFIT: £1,959,290 (£1,540,282). EARNINGS PER SHARE: 6.50p (5.52p). DIVIDEND: 0.924p per share (maximum permissible) covered seven times. The main activity of the Group is worldwide international trade.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

Copper declines further £14

Cash losses were registered as prices on the London Exchange yesterday...

Foreign Exchange

Pound's recovery continues

Sterling remained at the centre of foreign exchange attention yesterday as it extended Friday's recovery...

Spot Position of Sterling

Bank rates: Bank of England, 10.50 per cent; Commercial, 10.00 per cent...

Forward Levels

New York 1 month: 10.50; 3 months: 10.75; 6 months: 11.00...

Euromarket prices (midday indicators)

Table with columns for instrument, price, and bid/offer. Includes items like 3-month Eurodollar, 6-month Eurodollar, etc.

Business Notices

RECENTLY ARRIVED... EXCITING OPPORTUNITY... RIDING SCHOOL FOR SALE...

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

C. FROTH & COMPANY... Depository Receipts... AMF 5 1987...

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE...

Joint Market

At late Christmas spending... The Bank of England had for some time in the forefront...

Key Market

Inland Minimum Leading Rate 12.75... Treasury Bills (Days): 1 month 10.50, 3 months 10.75...

Times Indices

Table with columns for index name, value, and change. Includes FTSE 100, FTSE 250, etc.

It Issues

Table with columns for issue name, closing price, and change. Includes 10% Treasury, etc.

Bank Base Rates

Table with columns for bank name and rate. Includes Barclays, HSBC, etc.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Large table listing various financial instruments, insurance policies, and offshore funds with their respective prices and details.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE...

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a Special Report briefing

SUGAR

Sweet crisis and sour prices as European crops fail

by John Woodland
Commodities Editor

Sugar, one of the few true international commodities, is going through a phreatic period of the sort which has never been seen before and one which most traders, merchants, consumers and producers have no desire to see again.

In spite of warnings from sugar experts during the past three years that a world shortage was likely because of increased consumption, little action was taken to expand production.

This was not surprising because of the huge cost involved and experience of low prices in world markets. To invest in a sugar complex was thought to be an expensive luxury with the estimated cost for a 100,000-tonne new mill put at a minimum of £30m. This estimate is rising daily.

Catastrophic European crops this season electrified the world markets after particularly bad weather for sugar beet growing caused the London sugar brokers, C. Czarnikow, to estimate the European harvest at just 24,490,000 tonnes, a drop of 2,300,000 tonnes over 1973-74.

Stocks are down to a mere 10 weeks' supply and people are having to go to their normal consumption of sugar, either because they cannot afford it or because it simply is not there.

Eritria is one of the worst affected countries, with Czarnikow forecasting production down from 1,047,000 tonnes in 1973-74 to 650,000 tonnes this season. But even this goal may not be reached. The Belgian crop also has been hard hit with latest estimates putting the harvest at 600,000 tonnes or 180,000 tonnes less than the previous year.

With Russia losing some 500,000 tonnes at nice million tonnes; West Germany, more than 100,000 at 2,409,000 tonnes; Poland, 317,000 tonnes at 1,503,000, and Italy some 200,000 at 925,000 tonnes, it is little wonder that prices have soared.

A year ago the London daily price was £139 a long ton, then a record; but this year the £200 mark was soon surpassed and, although wavering in the mid £200s between May and July, the

price then accelerated sharply.

By the end of August, £300 had been seen and at the end of October it was well over £400. November was a hectic month with the price climbing rapidly, reaching the current record of £650 a ton on November 21.

The price has since fallen sharply and is about £450, but it is difficult to see the price reacting much further because the world shortage will last well into 1975. Many sources feel that prices will depend greatly on the weather next year.

One happy aspect of this year's high prices is that many countries, including West and East Europe and the Latin American nations, are to expand production at last.

Probably the greatest area for expansion is in Africa where the potential is enormous. Some wise businessmen had begun to increase production long before the price explosion.

Booker McConnell, for instance, has been growing and manufacturing sugar since the mid-nineteenth century. The company is now involved, by way of investment or management services, in the production of more than 500,000 tonnes of sugar annually in the Caribbean and Africa.

In Kenya the Mumias sugar scheme has been sponsored by the Government and developed by the company. It plans to raise output from 45,000 tonnes this year to 70,000 by 1976.

Lombh in conjunction with various governments, has been active in Africa. The company has hopes of 300,000 tons in Sudan; 40,000 tons in Dahomey, and 100,000 tons (up from 40,000) on the Ivory Coast. Nigeria hopes that by 1976 half the country's sugar needs will be catered for after the setting up of a joint company between the Federal Government, the North-eastern State Government and the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The North-eastern State is expected to produce 120,000 tonnes of refined sugar a year.

In Australia the Queensland industry hopes for increased production which could lift Australian output by 300,000 tonnes to 3,200,000 tonnes. But with most expansion



Collecting sugar cane in Tanzania.

plans not coming to fruition until 1976, it seems certain that the world shortage will persist throughout next year.

If consumption keeps growing—put at close to two million tonnes a year—and if prices continue to be held down by governments for social and economic reasons, then there is little doubt that the forecast made by Dr Albert Viton, of the Food and Agriculture Organization, that world demand will reach between 94 million and 96 million tons by 1980, will be fulfilled. The problem is whether enough sugar will be produced even after the 1976 expansion plans.

Dr Viton says the stimulus to production expansion has been much milder than would be expected from world price developments.

The simple fact is that in the overwhelming majority of countries domestic, not export, prices have determined the amounts paid to farmers and mills, and big increases in domestic markets have been rare.

In many countries prices paid to producers have not kept pace with increases in production costs, brought about by more expensive machinery, chemicals, fuel and, above all, higher wages. Governments of some exporting countries have siphoned off higher earnings from exports, instead of allowing farmers and mills to benefit; other governments have deliberately kept down production expansion by administrative measures, because they did not believe the favourable prices would last

and feared a repetition of the low prices of the last decade.

One of the basic factors that has kept farmers from expanding in sugar is that the margin of profitability of sugar over other crops has declined, particularly over the past 12 months, and farmers consequently have not found it in their interest to assume the costs and risks of expansion.

The world sugar economy is now in a crisis; it is more important, therefore,

not to compound past mistakes with panic policies.

Dr Viton suggests that just as it was wrong to base production and marketing policies on the assumption that sugar would become cheaper continually, it would be equally wrong to expect the present high world prices to continue indefinitely.

No one can say what the average price will be during the next five years, but for a working hypothesis Dr Viton puts forward an average of about £130 a ton, raw

value. He fully realizes that only in a few parts of the world can new production be brought on at this price.

On the other hand, it would be foolhardy to overlook the price effects of a world bumper crop—say an increase of 10 per cent because of favourable weather conditions in all, or nearly all, the major production areas.

Such an increase is feasible and if it came about it would probably mean a price of less than £130 for a time.

Production		
Area	1973	1972
Europe	26,957,387	27,073,233
North America	4,593,315	4,612,382
Central America	11,388,669	10,594,516
South America	11,767,436	10,751,793
Asia	14,151,566	13,180,410
Africa	5,325,683	5,393,030
Oceania	3,911,229	4,204,547
World total	78,095,285	75,809,911
Beet percentage	40.8	42.6
Cane percentage	59.2	57.4

Consumption		
Area	1973	1972
Europe	31,574,238	30,115,881
North America	11,675,475	11,496,911
Central America	3,842,182	3,579,587
South America	7,830,233	7,646,294
Asia	17,909,439	17,590,390
Africa	4,834,540	4,605,141
Oceania	1,019,287	970,691
World total	78,685,384	76,004,905

Stocks		
Area	Dec 31 1973	Dec 31 1972
Europe	283,710	329,300
Austria	7,678,442	8,305,388
EEC	132,279	140,872
Finland	192,386	103,313
Greece	221,527	221,874
Hungary	288,110	294,811
Sweden	471,886	632,590
Turkey	361,708	176,823
Yugoslavia	321,974	464,028
North America	2,365,694	2,500,669
Canada	460,630	339,201
United States (mainland)	207,275	282,414
Central America	736,154	526,222
Cuba	2,159,704	2,464,159
Mexico	934,120	981,757
South America	296,743	214,669
Argentina	139,526	86,739
Brazil	333,546	607,341
Chile	483,381	418,514
Colombia	222,300	101,352
Peru	180,852	196,358
Venezuela	116,575	89,778
Africa	121,823	110,841
Mauritius	559,981	588,465
Mozambique		
Nigeria		
South Africa		
Oceania		
Australia	785,543	1,083,426

Source: International Sugar Organization. All figures metric tons, raw value.

EEC statistics

Year	Production	Imports	Exports	Net imports	Consumption	Stocks
1973	10,176,858	2,228,401	1,915,770	312,631	11,116,435	7,678,442
1972	9,935,764	2,293,964	1,919,571	374,393	10,474,683	8,305,388
1971	10,287,253	2,296,891	1,287,919	1,008,972	10,460,719	8,451,144



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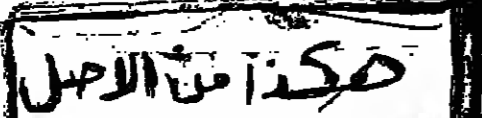
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New major setback to Commonwealth supplies

Richard Allen

The temporary breakdown in negotiations in Brussels and London with Commonwealth sugar producers to fix a price for consignments of 1,400,000 tons is not the first serious setback to the EEC's tortuously formulated sugar policy.

Last week the European Commission admitted that its offer to buy 1,400,000 tons of sugar from Commonwealth producers at a price of £130 a ton was not acceptable to the EEC. The Commission had invited tenders for the purchase of 1,400,000 tons from "any source" under a complex reimbursement worked out in Luxembourg during October. The plan was that these tenders would be made available to Commonwealth producers at a price of £130 a ton. At the same time the EEC would minimize the effect of the subsidy by selling an equivalent amount of its year's Community crop on the world market.

However, the commission last week that tenders received in this first tentative step in the scheme were high that it could not accept them.

A commission spokesman admitted the setback to the temporary closure of the sugar market, which would have forced forward sales. He also voiced a suspicion that traders had been submitting optimistically high tenders hoping that the commission would pay up to the limit of the offer. He said the commission was disappointed to find that the tenders were so far from the ground. The British cane refiners have most to lose if the scheme failed, made their statement perfectly clear.

He told the commission that the Brussels estimate of a subsidy in the region of £10 a ton would have to be reduced to secure anything like the amount required. With soaring world prices, der bargaining by Commonwealth suppliers and disorganised beet harvests this year, Britain's sugar industry is facing a crisis. It is a crisis which any circumstances, membership of the EEC so far served only to obscure the issues and accentuate the problems.

The main problem in negotiations throughout this year has been that legislation in the Community to restrict Britain's entry had geared more to dealing with burdensome surpluses of sugar than sudden deficits. In recent years the Six have been a net exporter of sugar. Production was governed by a complex system of quotas which in fact penalized countries at failed to achieve self-sufficiency, while a scale of aid made over-production unprofitable at the low world prices then prevailing. Meanwhile, Britain's industry was vigorously pursuing a policy of restricting the industry to about a third of requirements to guarantee access to Commonwealth cane sugar under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.

This agreement under which sugar was imported at a price of between £60 and £70 a ton has now run out and any agreement would certainly have involved considerably higher prices as a result of the world situation. Britain's shortage of cane sugar in the past few months stemmed directly from Caribbean

producers diverting CSA sugar to more lucrative American markets in a desperate move to cover soaring production costs.

However, any continuation of this policy would have amounted to a direct confrontation of EEC rules and Britain, faced with a powerful European sugar beet lobby, did well to secure as part of her entry negotiations a pledge that the EEC would continue the essentials of the CSA.

At the time of these negotiations the French producers, seeing a vast new market for their beet sugar, demanded that the amount of Commonwealth sugar brought into Europe be reduced to 500,000 tons.

Caught between vested interests the Community council delayed a firm decision until the British Government in 1971 finally succeeded in getting a guarantee of continuing access for 1,400,000 tons from the Commonwealth. However, when Britain proposed using the new Commonwealth EEC sugar arrangements to establish supplies from Australia as part of its EEC renegotiations this year the commission rejected the proposal outright.

The price involved—£180 a ton for 350,000 tons under a five-year contract with an index-linking clause—was considered far too high compared with the Community's internal price then of £130. It was only after 20 hours of negotiations that the powerful West German sugar beet lobby in Luxembourg finally capitulated to the "Lardinois" agreement under which the Community is attempting to buy from world markets largely to meet Britain's own needs.

The overall Community position for 1974-75 is still vague. Production in Europe is unlikely to exceed nine million tonnes against a requirement of nearly 11 million tonnes.

The position for Britain, according to Mr Ian Smith, an economics lecturer who recently prepared a paper on the subject for the Trade Policy Research Centre, looks a good deal more frightening. With 1975 consumption—including repayment of borrowings to world markets—estimated at 2,850,000 tons, domestic supplies at 630,000 tons and assuming 1,000,000 tons from developing Commonwealth countries the deficit is an alarming 1,100,000 tons.

After one particularly long and arduous negotiating session with fellow agricultural ministers last month, Mr Fred Beart emerged to say that Britain must realize the era of cheap sugar is over. Later the same month Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the EEC Commission, hit back at critics of the sugar negotiations and said: "Britain's sugar supplies are threatened by the world market. Britain is in a better position to safeguard her future supplies at a reasonable price as a member of the Community than if she were outside."

It is abundantly clear that British sugar men have little faith in the Community's patchwork of compromise deals. There is a strong feeling within the industry that when the expected fall in the price of sugar could be one of the most crucial factors in an EEC referendum.



Shifting sugar in the raw state (above) and in the final package (right).



Napoleon gave a push to the continental industry

There are two principal crops for sugar: cane, which accounts for over half of the world's production, is a tropical or subtropical plant, and beet, which is grown in temperate or cold climates. Other minor sugar sources are maple trees, sugar palms and sorghum.

Cane, which dates back to antiquity, probably originated in New Guinea. It reached Egypt and Spain by the eighth century and the Americas by the sixteenth. It is a giant perennial grass of the genus *Saccharum* and mature canes may be 10ft to 26ft tall and are usually 1 1/2in to 2in in diameter. Cane thrives under a wide diversity of conditions on heavy clay to light sandy soils where rainfall is from 30in to 120in a year. Production is favoured where the average maximum temperature at the active growing stage is about 30°C, becoming gradually lower as the ripening time approaches until the minimum temperature is about 15°C.

An average rainfall of about 30in a month for the month before and first four months of harvest, and 5in a month for the remaining period is adequate. The cane stem is divided into internodes averaging 6in in length and 1 1/2in in diameter though this can extend up to 12in by 2in. Drought, low temperatures or onset of flowering results in shorter internodes, each of which bears a long leaf protecting a bud.

Propagation is by cuttings from the cane stalk, each consisting of two or more buds which germinate and produce new plants.

Pests attack all parts of the plant. The froghopper causes serious leaf damage and the small moth borer results in loss of weight and juice quality. The greyback beetle seriously diminishes production by feeding on the roots. Fungi and bacteria are also responsible for many diseases.

Sugar beet on the other hand is a fairly modern industry. It was grown as a garden vegetable and for fodder long before it was valued for its sugar content. Sugar was produced experimentally from beets in Germany in 1747 by the chemist Andreas Marggraf but the first beet factory was built in Silesia in 1802.

Napoleon became interested in the process in 1811 because the British blockade had cut off the raw sugar supply from the West Indies, and under his influence 40 factories were established in France.

In Britain the first factory was built by Dutch interests at Cantley, Norfolk in 1912. This was not a commercial success for it incurred losses for four years. A second factory was built in 1921, and in 1925 when Britain was suffering from economic woes the Government approved a scheme for assistance for 10 years. During the decade 16 more factories were established.

In 1936 all the factories were amalgamated under the newly formed British Sugar Corporation. Now beet is

grown on some 20,000 farms and in the 1973-74 campaign the corporation produced 948,000 tons of white sugar equivalent (872,000 in 1972-73), 653,000 tons of dried molasses beet pulp (564,000 tons), and 143,000 tons (91,000) of molasses for sale.

This season, however, it is generally thought that sugar output will be down a third after bad weather. Under various projects the corporation is increasing its factory capacity to produce 1,100,000 tons of sugar a year.

The ideal soil for growing sugar beet is deep free-working loam with good drainage. Of the pests attacking the beet are flea beetles, wireworms, mangelfly and aphids, all of which can be controlled by suitable chemicals and eelworm.

Most important diseases are black leg, mildew, heart and root rot and virus yellows. The latter, which is transmitted by green aphids, causes a yellowing of the leaves and can mean heavy crop losses.

The London daily sugar price in long tons

End of month price.

September	1973	£101
October	1973	£105
November	1973	£112.50
December	1973	£148
January	1974	£201
February	1974	£230
March	1974	£201
April	1974	£235
May	1974	£235
June	1974	£234
July	1974	£277
August	1974	£355
September	1974	£360
October	1974	£460
November	1974	£540

Sugar and the business of Booker McConnell

Guyana Bookers Sugar Estates—a consistently profitable subsidiary company—produces 300,000 tons of sugar and 100,000 tons of molasses a year on eight estates. Guyana is now the biggest sugar-exporting country in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The company employs 18,000 people and will earn this year about £45m in foreign exchange for Guyana. Land in cane has expanded from 78,000 acres to 90,000 acres in the last five years.

Nigeria Booker McConnell has pioneered the only successful sugar industry in West Africa. It developed the Bacila estate in the Niger valley, built the factory and provided management and technical advisory services; and it owns 17% of the equity of the Nigerian Sugar Company. This year about 35,000 tons of sugar were produced and the company is highly profitable.

Kenya At Mumias in Western Province, Booker McConnell has created, from the feasibility study to profitable production, the biggest sugar estate in Kenya. In the first six months of operation in 1973 it made a profit, although selling at the local price of only £85 a ton. It should make about 54,000 tons of sugar this year. Plans are in hand to develop a second and even larger estate. Booker McConnell also has a 5% shareholding in the Mumias Sugar Company.

Consultancy services Booker's Agricultural and Technical Services, based at Bucklersbury House, is one of the leading sugar consultancy firms in the world. It provides a service ranging from the simple assessment of technical problems to the creation of a fully-developed sugar estate, together with all the supporting management, technical and training services.

Sugar machinery Fletcher and Stewart, a subsidiary in the Engineering Division, is one of the major sugar machinery manufacturers in the world. Apart from sales of unit equipment it supplies complete new factories on a turnkey basis. A substantial modernisation and expansion of the Masson Works at Derby will shortly be completed.

The future of sugar The vast increase in the world consumption of sugar over the remainder of this century will provide great opportunities for Booker McConnell's operations in sugar. Sugar is one of the traditional strengths of Booker McConnell and the companies concerned are being further strengthened to meet the challenge.



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Country	1973	1972	1971
1 Cuba	4,797,377	4,139,556	5,510,860
2 Brazil	2,975,306	2,637,525	1,230,377
3 Australia	2,102,822	2,297,619	1,761,793
4 Philippines	1,385,133	1,261,536	1,411,483
5 Dominican Republic	1,069,550	1,141,328	1,011,192
6 South Africa	913,474	1,045,186	764,286
7 Mauritius	738,893	650,374	602,185
8 Mexico	590,211	598,411	551,071
9 Taiwan	507,684	520,003	541,861
10 Argentina	470,445	167,134	121,138
11 Peru	407,011	480,932	428,611
12 Poland	394,007	310,727	44,897
13 Thailand	285,294	438,861	145,010
14 Jamaica	271,474	378,961	309,913
15 Guyana	237,769	319,561	361,552
16 India	208,705	104,518	353,664
World total	19,208,473	18,741,135	17,127,404

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After Friday, 20th December, sales recommence at Bond Street on 6th January 1975 and at Belgravia on 7th January 1975

Art At Auction 1973-4, The Year at Sotheby Parke Bernet, is now available from bookshops, price £8, or direct from Sotheby Parke Bernet Publications, 36 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB, price £8-50 post paid.

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Phillips in Knowle: Dec. 18, Victoriana, The Old House, Knowle, W. Midlands. Tel. 056 45 6151.
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Phillips the Auction People since 1796.
7 Blenheim Street, New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS
Tel. 01-499 8541

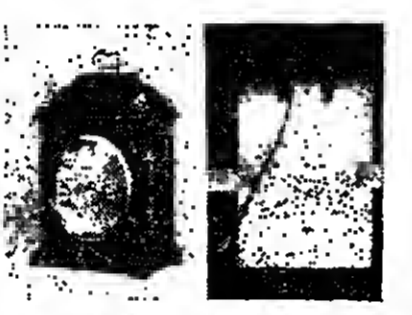
PROPERTY also on page 6

Bonham's

At the Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier Street, Knights Bridge, London SW7 1HH. Tel. 01-584 9361.
Tuesday, 17th December
OLD CURIOSITIES & BYGONES including antique weapons, arms and militaria, with a fine pair of percussion cap pistols by W. Child, London, and a 17th century Polish wood powder flask; juvenilia, including dolls & lead soldiers; costumes, fans and lace; scientific instruments; and other curios. Cat. 20p.
Wednesday, 18th December
FINE FURS, including leopard, ocelot, sable, mink, fox, seal and musquash, coats, jackets, stoles, and hats, both new and second hand. On view Tues., 10-4. Cat. 20p.
Thursday, 19th December
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL FURNITURE, including a Regency rose-

wood tea table on sabre legs; a mahogany bookcase with delicate interlaced astragals, 7ft 4in. high, 6ft. 8in. wide, circa 1900; a coromandel lacquer screen; a longcase clock with green japanned case and brass dial, circa 1750; four 17th Century oak joint stools; a longcase clock by A. Marshall, Glasgow, circa 1850. Cat. 20p.
Thursday 19th December
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS, including works by A. Audina; T. Dingle; J. H. Hooper; G. Houston; W. Hughes; C. E. Kuwassez; M. Meopes; J. W. Nient; J. R. Wainwright. Cat. 20p.
Friday, 20th December
PORCELAIN AND WORKS OF ART Cat. 20p.
Bonhams will close for the Christmas Holiday at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th December, and will re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, 30th December.
Thursday, 2nd January
CARPETS AND RUGS. Cat. 20p.
Sales on view two days prior. Sales commence at 11 a.m.

DEBENHAM COE



A fine 17th Century English Bracket Clock by John Purdey, London, to be sold on DECEMBER 31st.

Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers
Established 1813
ANTIQUE FURNITURE
Wednesday, December 18th, at 10 a.m.
OLD & MODERN PAINTINGS
Wednesday, December 18th, at 2.00 p.m.
FINE QUALITY FURS
Thursday, December 19th, at 11 a.m.
PORCELAIN, BISSETS D'ART & CARPETS
Tuesday, December 31st, at 1.30 p.m.
SOUTH KENSINGTON GALLERIES
79/85 OLD BLENHEIM ROAD
LONDON SW7 3JF
Tel: 01-589 2422
Member of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Ministry of Finance and National Economy
General Housing Department, Riyadh

Notice for pre-qualification of contractors for the construction of no less than 100,000 Houses and Apartments

in different places of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Applications are invited by the General Housing Department, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Riyadh for prequalification, from large reputed and International Contracting Firms, who are capable and wish to compete for the construction of no less than 100,000 houses and apartments, within a construction period of three years, in different parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by industrialized/mechanical methods of construction (prefabricated or semi-prefabricated in cement concrete/reinforced only). The object is to expedite the construction at economical costs.

The Housing Project, in addition to construction of houses and apartments, may include construction of Public Buildings.

The Contractor may be required to submit his own designs, if he has any, provided that such designs suit the requirements of the Kingdom and, at the same time, save cost and time to the Government. Only such Firms or Contractors should apply, who own or have acquired the right, to directly operate such equipment for industrialized or mechanized construction with a minimum experience of 10 years in executing huge housing projects in the international field and have successfully used their system for not less than five years.

In addition to any relevant data that they may wish to submit, which can help evaluate the contractors' ability to handle such Projects, the following information may be supplied:

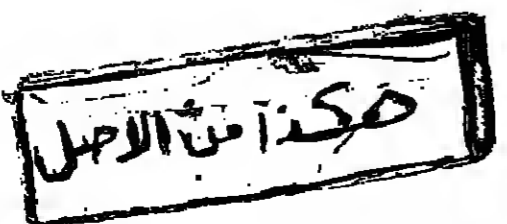
- 1) Full name of Company/Firm and address with its Head office where correspondence is to be directed.
- 2) Record of Company's experience on similar Projects undertaken by the Firm during the last 10 years indicating its location, scope of work, approximate cost of work, time taken for its completion and also the name of the owner.
- 3) Particulars of the system for industrialized/mechanized constructions with the details of equipment for the operation of such system.
- 4) Results of quality tests, technical approvals, or controls by official national or international bodies.
- 5) Examples of prototypes with detailed description and rough estimates of production costs, work completion conditions, and period of construction for completion.
- 6) Name of Company's Directors, Partners or Associates with qualifications and experience of top Engineers.
- 7) Particulars of the Principal Design Team of Architects

- and Engineers with qualifications and experience.
- 8) Details of work in hand, if any, indicating name of its owner, approximate cost, scope of work and expected time involved in its completion.
- 9) Certified copy of last year's balance sheet.
- 10) Details in respect of litigation or arbitration cases, if any, and its result thereof.
- 11) Statement of financial standing with necessary bank certificates.

The applications with the above mentioned details duly supported by documents should be furnished in duplicate in a sealed cover, within one month from the date of this notice, to:

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy, General Housing Department, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh
Telex No: 20021/Finance/SJ.

All establishments, who do not fulfil the above mentioned requirements are requested not to apply, otherwise any application not in conformity with the above requirements will be ignored.



Saudi Arabia

Secretarial and General Appointments

STELLA FISHER IN THE STRAND CLERICAL ASSISTANTS

A number of women and girls are now being recruited as Clerical Assistants. Some employers require typing skills, others figure ability.

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

QUALIFIED LIBRARIAN as a degree or diploma in librarianship, organized, able to handle a wide range of Management Consultancy.

GRADUATE GIRLS

IN THE TRAINING. Newly qualified for computer administration at major West End firm.

TRY-LOVING creative seek first Secretary for small business.

STING AGENCY M.D. is alert young secretary with basic public relations and personality to look after and act as liaison with all units.

BETHAN BUREAU for front permanent Secretary for Goldsmiths, 659 1011.

INFORMATION ASSISTANT £2,300 Plus excellent fringe benefits

Unusual and interesting position involving lots of telephone work, client contact and sales reports to management. Age open - great opportunity for career-minded person!

that's Keystone

GENERAL COPY TYPIST TRAINING ADMINISTRATION c.£2,000

We are a rapidly expanding firm of Chartered Accountants employing a number of typists and administrators. We will report to you for training typing and administration. She will be in addition to typing course material, she will be required to prepare generally on a wide range of business and technical subjects.

GRADUATE MARKET RESEARCHER c. £2,500+car

A private development company active in the residential and commercial sectors is seeking a young graduate with a degree in a related field to research in connection with their development projects.

BRIGHT BOOKKEEPER FOR KNIGHTSBRIDGE AROUND £2,350

International Oil company needs a young graduate with a degree in a related field to research in connection with their development projects.

ATRACTIVE YOUNG LADY

Charismatic person with pleasant personality, aged between 22 and 24, to drive young simple company director who has a wide range of business and technical subjects.

SECRETARIAL SALARY £2,400 PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS

Young expanding company based at Swiss Cottage involved in North Sea oil business, seeks PA Secretary to be part of a small energetic team.

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for company providing a service to leading hotels, banks and offices. Must be able to handle a wide range of business and technical subjects.

TOP SECRETARY/P.A.

Trade Association requires experienced Secretary for varied duties and responsibilities. Good working conditions with excellent fringe benefits.

MARKETING/PROMOTIONS COMPANY seeks P.A./JUNIOR BUYER

Excellent opportunity for young lady with Audio experience to work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment.

SECRETARIAL EDITORIAL SECRETARY

New Society is looking for a Secretary to work for an Assistant Editor and for the Books Editor.

COVENT GARDEN CARES ABOUT CAREERS

CHRISTMAS COLLEGE LEAVERS

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

SECRETARY

FASHION PUBLIC RELATIONS

ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

SECRETARY £1,900 negotiable

SECRETARY FOR DIRECTOR £2,300 P.A.

CAPABLE SECRETARY (AUDIO)

LEGAL SECRETARY

ONLY 5 SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

PA. WITH POISE £2,500

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MOTOR CARS

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CHIPSTEAD OF KENSINGTON

ROBBINS OF PUTNEY LTD. OFFER

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SECRETARY FOR DIRECTOR

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

FLAT SHARING RENTALS

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BELGRAVIA

STURGIS MAYFAIR LETTING DEPT.

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RENTALS

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